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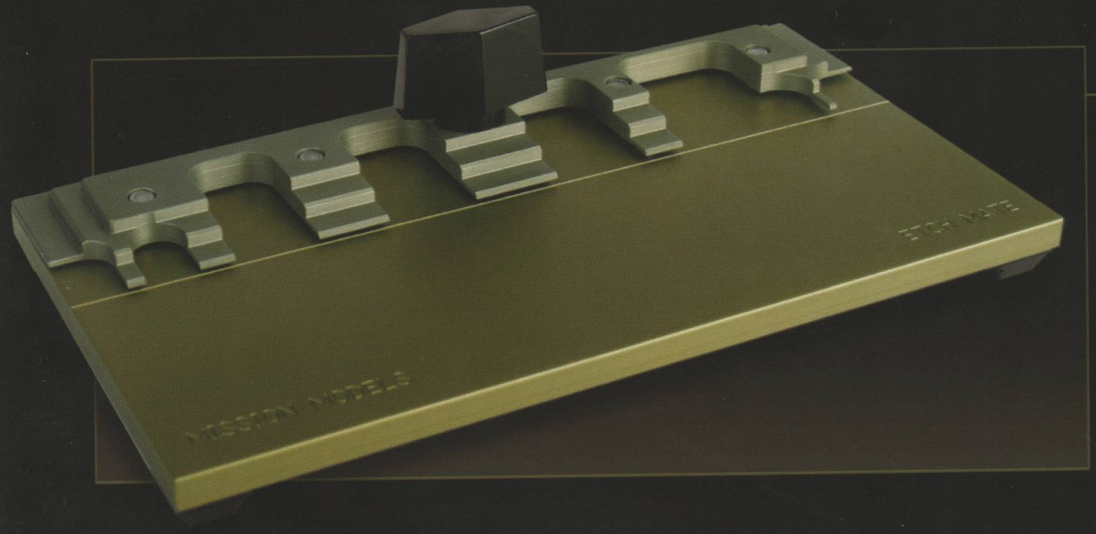

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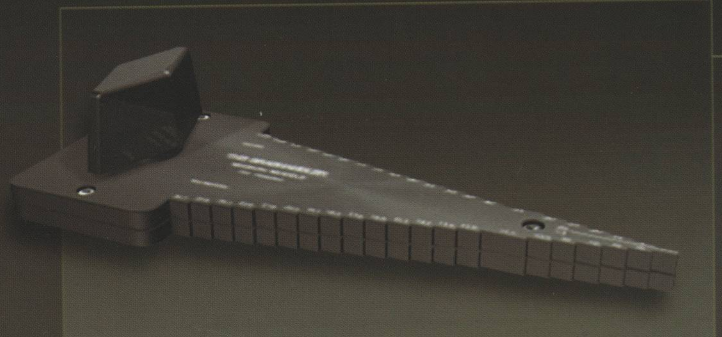

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NEW!
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SOVIET SUPERGUN
KURSK'D PANTHER
CHARMING CHARS B1 BIS
Tamiya's latest 1:35 release gets converted to Wehrmacht spec

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Address: ADH Publishing,
Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
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ISSN 1749-8864

Newsline - August '06

MMI Newsdesk, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill,
Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574
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Diary Dates...

EAST OF SCOTLAND MODEL SHOW 2006

On Saturday August 26th IPMS Dundee will host the East of Scotland Model Show 2006. This will take place at the Marryat Hall, Caird Hall complex, Dundee City Centre, Tayside. From 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Adult £3.00, Child / Concession £2.00, Family (2+2) £8.00 There will be an open competition, traders, branch displays and Tombola.

Contact:
Nairn Barclay
14 Strathmore Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 2PD.
Tel: (01382) 778509

FARNBOROUGH MODELFEST 2006

Sunday 24th September.
Kings International College
Watchetts Drive, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2PQ.

Please note this is a new venue!

For information contact:
Pete Readman
6 Purslane, Wokingham
Berks, RG40 2DD
Email: pete.readman@ipms-farnborough.co.uk

GMMS 2006

Gravesham Military Modelling Society will be holding their annual open day and competition on Saturday, 7th October 2006.

Please note new venue for this year: The North West Kent College of Technology, Lower Higham Road, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent, with free parking on the campus.

Doors will open at 10.30am with local model clubs and a variety of traders in attendance. The competition is open to all with a maximum of three entries per person per class. These will include Figures, AFVs, Dioramas, Conversions and Scratch Builds plus Best of Show Award.

Light refreshments will be available on the day. The GMMS famous raffle will take place just before the prize giving closing the show at 4.30pm.

If you have access to the Internet and wish to visit an on-line map site, the postcode is DA12 2JJ.

For further details and bookings please contact:
Jean Bickerstaff 01474 327003

NEW COMMANDER AT THE HELM

The Tank Museum has appointed a new Director who will lead The Museum through the most exciting developments in its history.

Thirty-Four year old Richard Smith picks up the reins of Dorset's largest Museum on April 10th, as present Director Colonel John Woodward retires.

Richard, a history graduate, has spent 11 years working for P&O Nedlloyd in a mixture of commercial, project management and service delivery functions across three different continents.

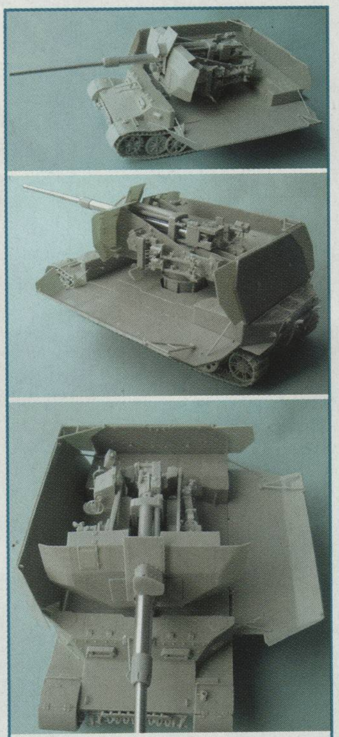
He said; "I am delighted to have been asked to take on the role of Director of the Tank Museum. For me, this is my dream job in which I can combine my experience in business with my passion for military history. We have a tremendously exciting programme of change over the next few years as we redevelop the museum. We have a world class collection and I hope to be able to deliver a world class experience for our visitors."

Richard replaces John Woodward, who has retired after 13 years at the helm of the Tank Museum. His tenure will be remembered for his tireless work to secure the future of the museum and its collections, most notably by instigating the £16m development project At Close Quarters.

In January 2005, the Heritage Lottery Fund pledged its support for the project, awarding it £8.55m. The project is set to be the biggest development of a tourist attraction in Dorset's history, making an important contribution to the local economy.

Furthermore, it will dramatically improve conditions inside the buildings making them suitable for long term preservation of the collections, and improve the visitor experience by modernising amenities and exhibitions.

John Woodward said; "I have enjoyed my time at The Tank Museum enormously, and so it is obviously difficult to leave. But I am confident that I am leaving the Museum in a most capable pair of hands, and look forward to Richard taking this great Museum forward."



CROMWELL MODELS

The latest release from Cromwell Models is the awesome 8.8cm Flak41 auf Sd Fgst self-propelled anti aircraft gun in 1:35, the kit will feature an all resin construction and a turned aluminium gun barrel.

For further information check out **www.cromwellmodels.com**

LATEST RELEASES SCHEDULED FROM TAMIYA

Although 1:35 Armour from Tamiya has been slow of late, it is a different matter entirely regarding the rapidly expanding range of new 1:48 Military vehicles, officially announced so far this summer include:

32531 Volkswagen type 82E Staff Car
32534 German 6 by 4 Truck Krupp Protze (Kfz.70)
32535 Russian heavy Tank KV-1
32536 German King Tiger (production Type)
and rumours of an M26 Pershing...

AIRCRAFT RESOURCE CENTRE

Yep I know it says aircraft, but the bit of the website that caught my eye was the funny photos and jokes section. Whilst checking this section for research, obviously I came across these classic tank and military vehicle mishap photos amongst others, all of which have great diorama potential. To check out these photos and to generally have a good laugh go to **www.aircraftresourcecenter.com** *The Editor*

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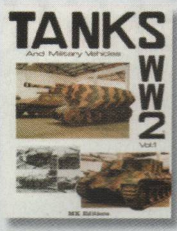
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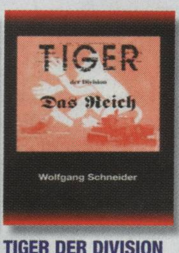
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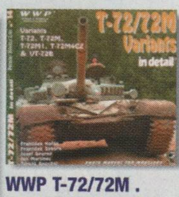
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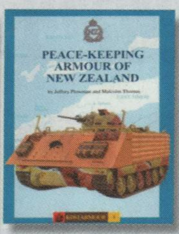
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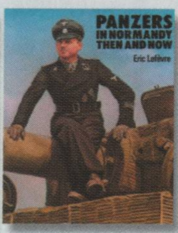
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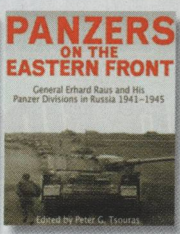
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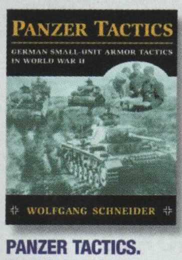
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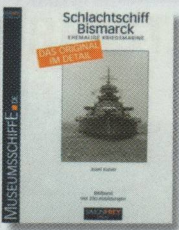
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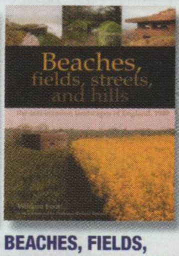
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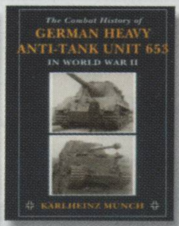
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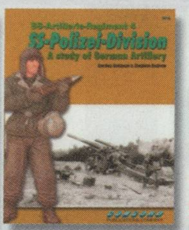
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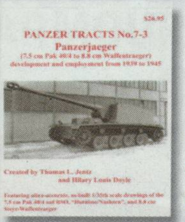
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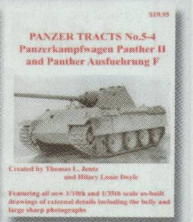
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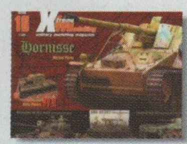

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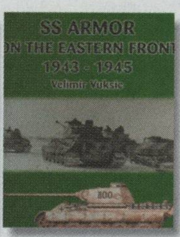
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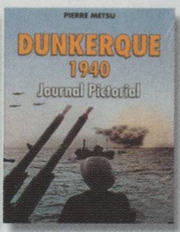
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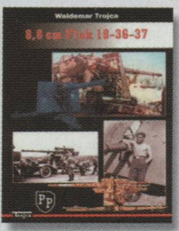
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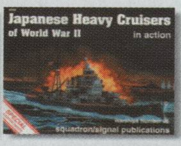
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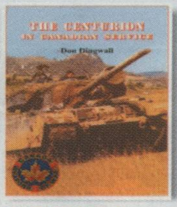
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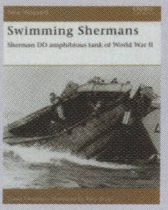
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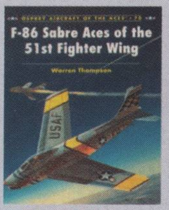
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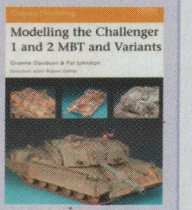
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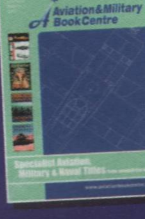
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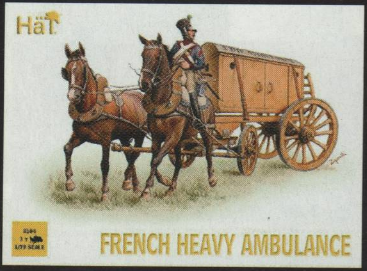
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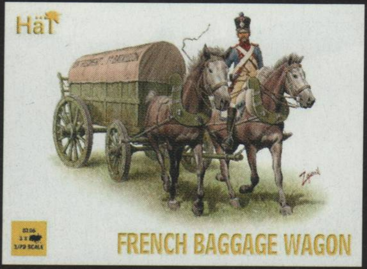
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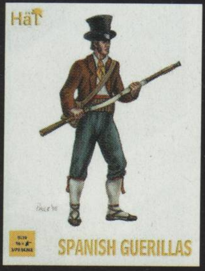
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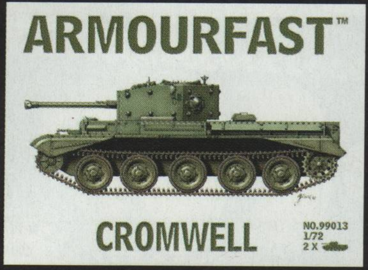
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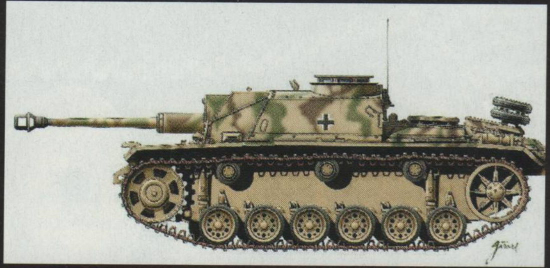

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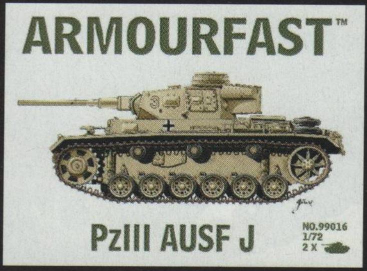
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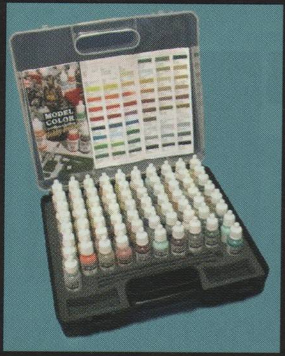

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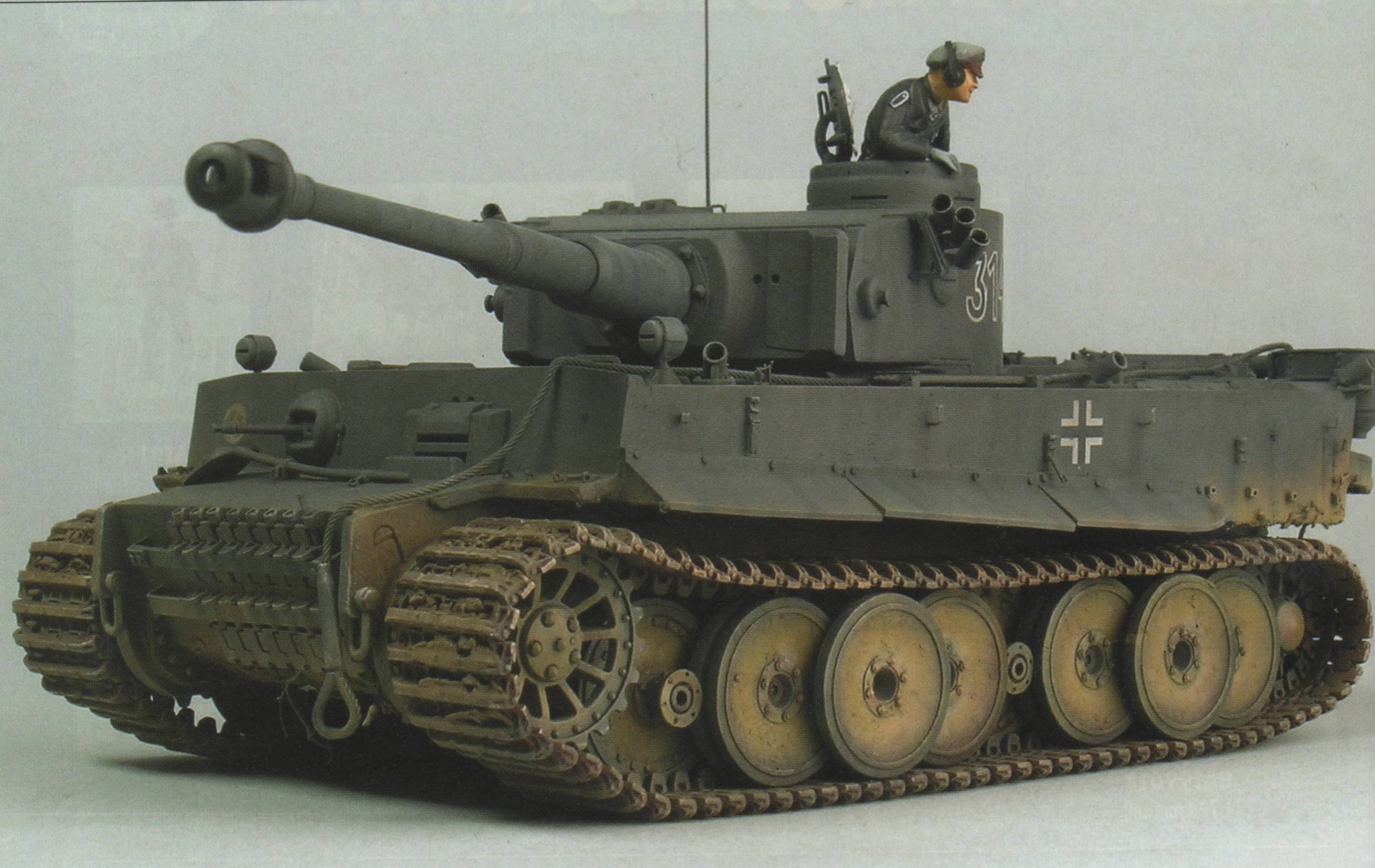


TAMING THE TIGER...

Luke Pitt makes Skybow's sublime Early Tiger I even better.

The Tiger I gained legendary status during World War Two with numerous Tiger commanders and their crews achieving a phenomenal number of kills. In this context it should be noted that while the tank was an impressive piece of equipment and indeed achieved a combat kill ratio of well over 12 to 1, the tank was mechanically unreliable and had a small radius of action. The tank was a thirsty beast requiring 530 litres of gasoline to move it 140km on roads, while off road, it dropped down to a miserable 85km between refills. Its suspension system or so-called "Schachtell Auf Werk" type provided a good ride/weight compromise but was prone to clog and freeze solid in winter.

To be fair, when introduced, the Tiger I was the most powerful mobile weapons system in the World. It was a superb weapons platform that provided its crews an edge in combat by giving them "outstanding reach". The mighty 8.8cm Kwk main gun coupled with a well trained crew and legendary German optics produced a weapons system that could and often did achieve a kill at 2000 metres plus, where a T-34 or a Sherman for instance had to close the gap between 500 and 700 metres to achieve the same sort of a result. A lot can happen in 1500 metres and this edge and armour strength propelled the Tiger Tank to legendary status.

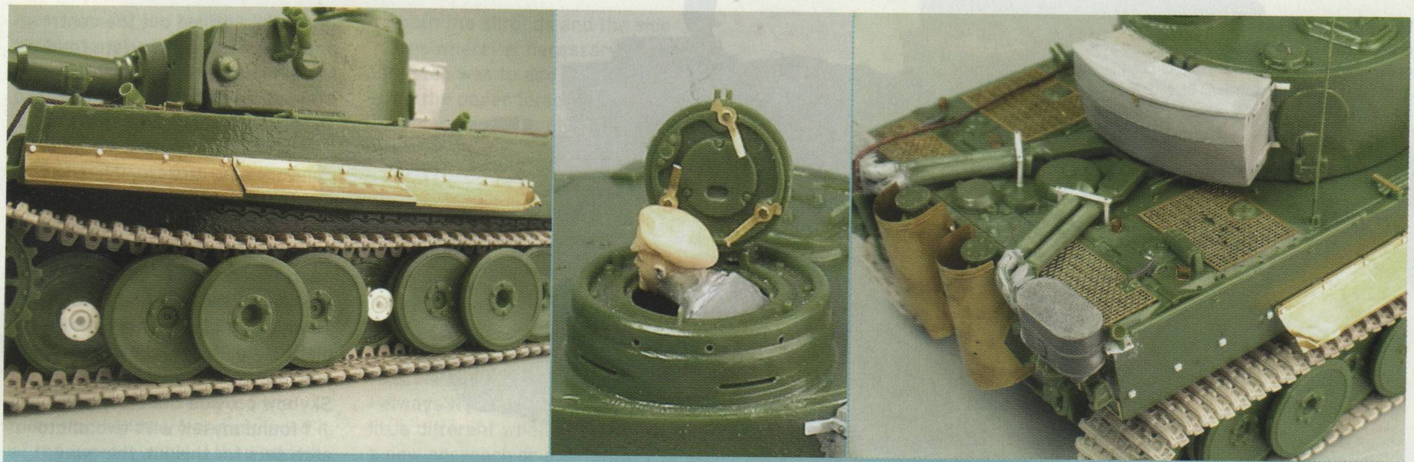
WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

The Skybow kit is moulded in a medium green plastic and its detail and fit is of a very high standard. The kit is presented in a red box that is most impressive in its design. It comes with a hinged panel that allows the modeller to view the contents via clear vacformed 2 part trays that fit into the main box. A photo of the completed model adorns the front cover and is of a fair standard. I much prefer a painting as with the Tamiya kit but this is a personal thing.

The lower hull is moulded in plastic and has the axles fixed. The road wheels are attached via small screws. This system is not in my mind as good as the Tamiya approach and is in some ways overly complicated but nevertheless once the road wheels are applied the result is a very accurate representation of the suspension assembly. The road wheels are very well detailed but have shallow pin marks on one side and are almost impossible to sand smooth without destroying the detail. The lower hull also includes the scalloped hull flanges on the hull sides, which is a nice touch. The tracks are of the "rubber band" vinyl type and have no holes in the guide horns and really don't match the detail level found on the rest of the kit. The Tamiya injected items provided in there kit are for the most part far superior in this regard.

The upper hull is quite simply a superb moulding and includes subtle weld seams and an excellent rolled steel texture. All the tools are moulded as separate items and are very well done. An early Feifel air cleaner system is provided (as opposed to the latter type fitted to the Tamiya kit) which again has been rendered very well. The kit provides the side plates as a single moulding for each side and is very good in terms of accuracy and shape.

The turret is a single piece moulding and again the outstanding rolled steel texture is evident on its exposed sides. The roof of the turret has the eight flush screws



Tech Tip!

Adding, removing or modifying parts from the kit can really help bring it to life. Here the author has removed a couple of roadwheels as well as damaging the side skirts to show the vehicle has seen action. Adding a figure (even just a head and shoulders) gives that much needed sense of scale.

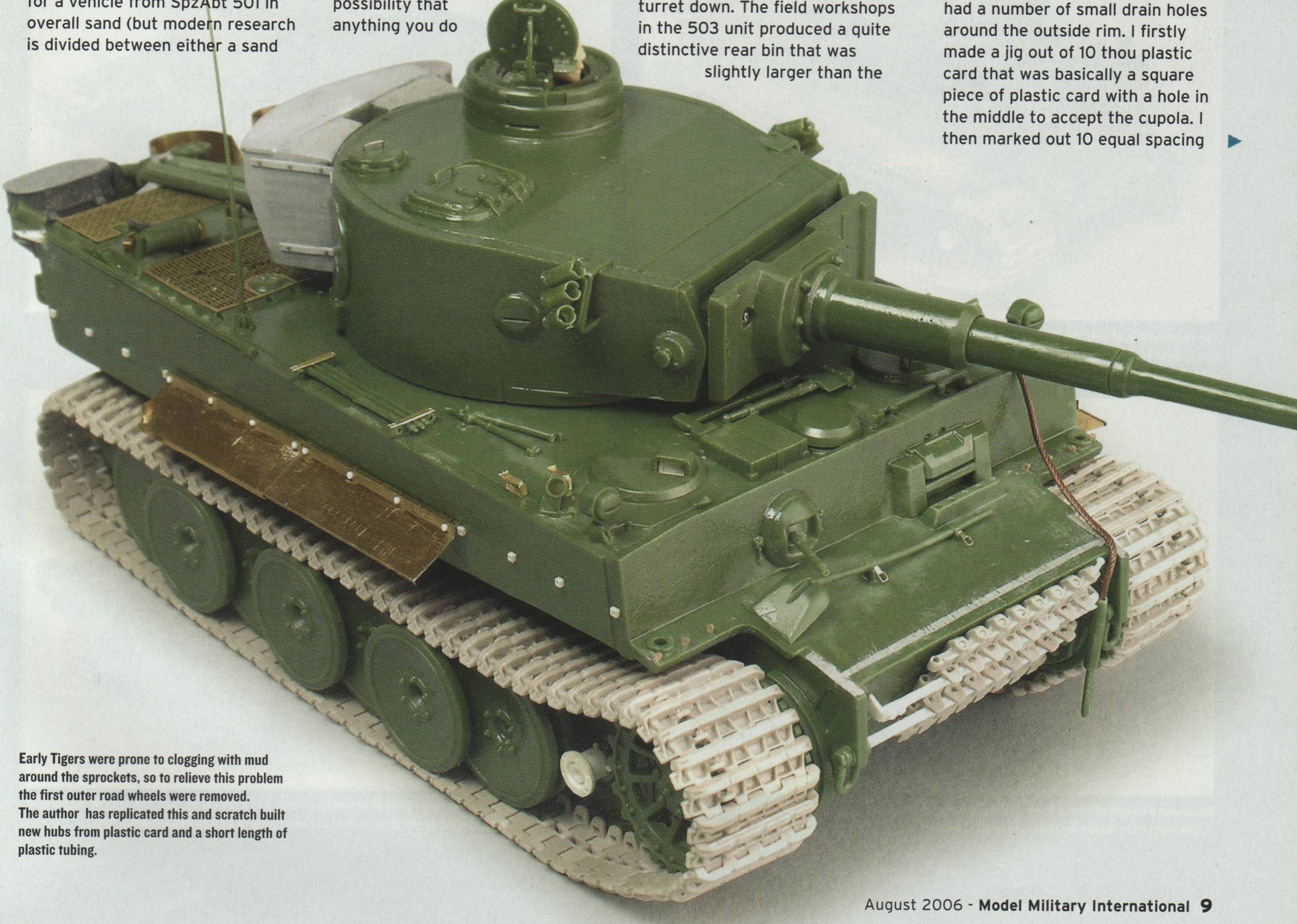
as well as the armoured strips on the front of the turret above the mantlet. The loaders hatch and copola hatch are moulded to a high standard and include separate grab handles and are detailed on both sides.

The decals are quite different in their application and design. With these you soak the decal as you would normally but place them like you would on say a vinyl sticker for your car. The markings provide for a vehicle from SpzAbt 501 in overall sand (but modern research is divided between either a sand green mix or a brown sand mix). The second vehicle is for SpzAbt 502 and is in sand. The last is for SpzAbt 505 and is a sand /green soft edge camouflage scheme.

MODEL CONSTRUCTION

Modeling any German tank is fraught with danger as there are so many, armchair experts, bad karma and so many interpretations of reference available one is often faced with the possibility that anything you do is either slightly incorrect or just plain wrong! With this in mind, I planned from the start an early generic Tiger I in Panzer Grey from SpzAbt 503 (because I liked the rear bin shape). Basically, I wanted a Tiger that appealed to me and I wanted to have some fun building it. I have no photographs of the Tiger I built but I have kept the build within tight historical guidelines.

I started this build from the turret down. The field workshops in the 503 unit produced a quite distinctive rear bin that was slightly larger than the factory supplied unit. I firstly drilled 3 holes in the rear of the kit-supplied bin and inserted and glued 3 pieces of plastic rod into the holes. I then formed Milliput around these pieces of rod to roughly the correct shape. When dry I sanded the bin to its final shape and added a 10 thou lid to the rear of the bin. The rest of the turret was built as the instructions suggest. I noted from the various photos I had seen that the cupola had a number of small drain holes around the outside rim. I firstly made a jig out of 10 thou plastic card that was basically a square piece of plastic card with a hole in the middle to accept the cupola. I then marked out 10 equal spacing



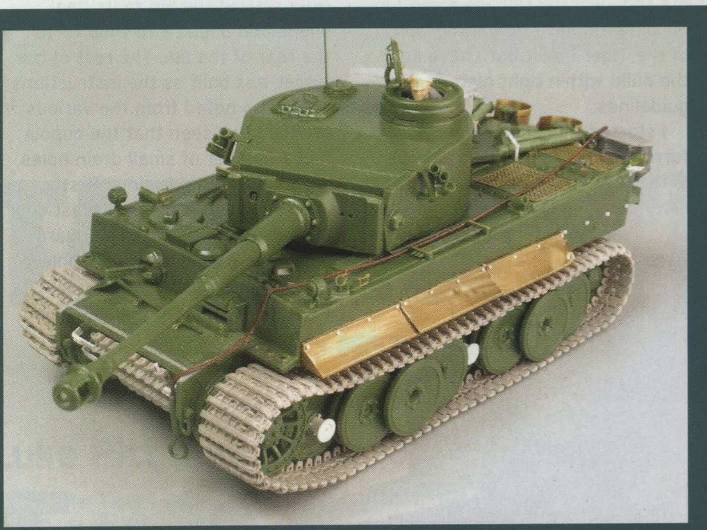
Early Tigers were prone to clogging with mud around the sprockets, so to relieve this problem the first outer road wheels were removed. The author has replicated this and scratch built new hubs from plastic card and a short length of plastic tubing.

Tamiya NATO Black was used to undercoat the entire model before adding the camouflage colour of German grey, which was mixed from Tamiya XF-63 German Grey and Medium Blue XF-18 in a 70/30 mix ratio.

◀ around this jig and placed it over the cupola so it would rest on its first step. I then marked and drilled the holes into the cupola using this guide. The next step was to replace the armoured ventilator cover handle with thin wire bent to shape. Most early Tigers had these armoured covers removed as they basically stopped the ventilator from working. That being said however, I have seen photographs of them fitted, so it's right either way. I then added a small brass tube to the front of the mantlet to represent the machine gun. The last step is to thin out the smoke dischargers to give them a more scale like appearance.

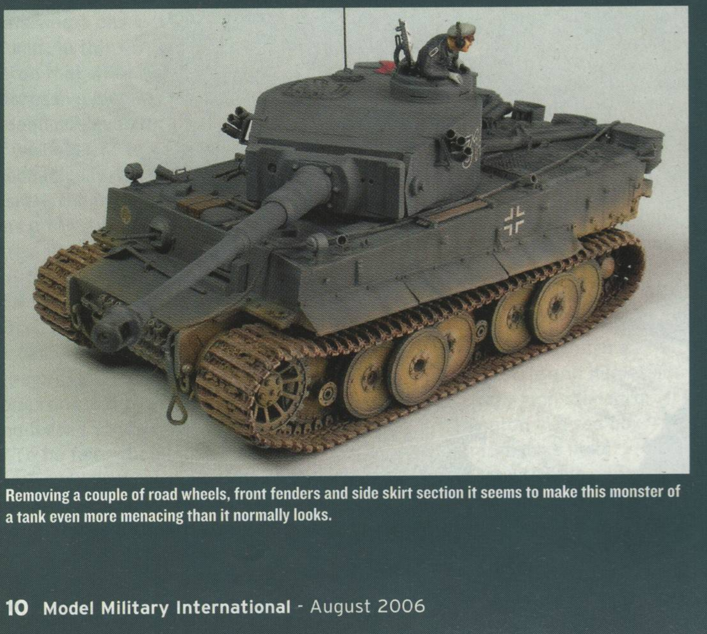
The next step is to move on to the hull. I must say this is really where this kit shines. Not only does it go together well, requiring no filler at all, the surface detail is quite simply outstanding. I attached the bottom of the hull to the top and then attached the road wheels as per the instructions. Tigers in Russia often had road wheels missing from either damage or clogging I have elected to leave 3 road wheels off my model. The mounting hardware was a simple tube cut to shape. A disc of 15thou plastic card was placed on top of this tube and left to dry. Once dry, I drilled out the centre and drilled the appropriate road wheel mounting holes in the disc. I then dry fitted the World War 2 Production tracks (WW248001) to the road wheels. These are very easy to assemble and fit. I would recommend them to anyone building this or the Tamiya kit. The last step is to attach the "Feifel" air cleaners at the rear of the hull. I have used the Tamiya items here as most of the pictures of Tigers from SpzAbt 503 seem to have the later type, were Skybow provide the early type.

I found myself with two photo etch sets for this kit, the quite superb Voyager (VPE48005) which includes everything you could possibly need to detail the kit with, the etch set is designed for the Tamiya kit however, so the rear mesh grills are ever so slightly too large for the Skybow kit. For these I have used Hauler's (HLX48031) Grille set that have been designed specifically for the Skybow kit. I was at first unimpressed with this grille set as I thought the

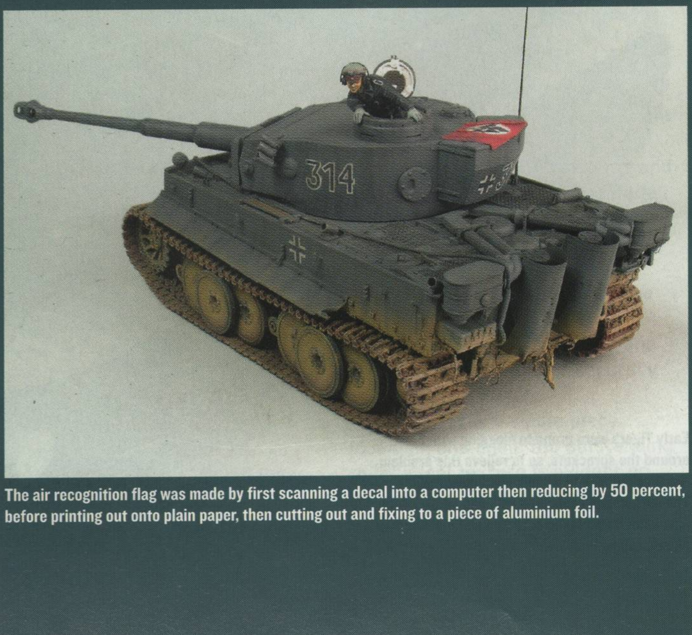


The combination of both the Hauler and Voyager etched brass parts really do add that extra dimension and finesse to the model that is virtually impossible with any other medium. The towing hawser has been made from a length of Karaya cable with the kit end parts.

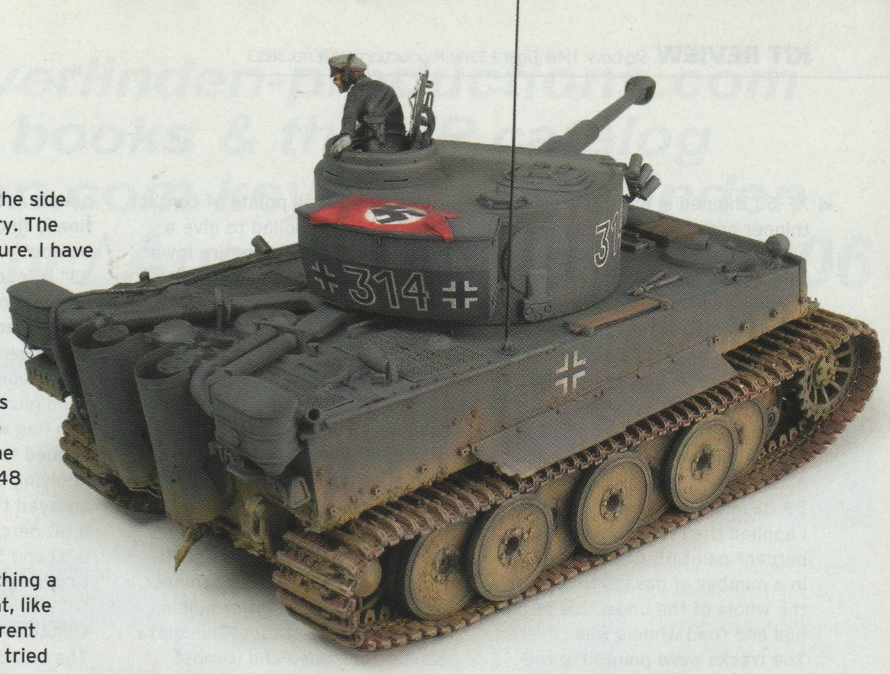
The Commander figure was changed after these build-up photos were taken for a new figure offering more movement and drama to the model.



Removing a couple of road wheels, front fenders and side skirt section it seems to make this monster of a tank even more menacing than it normally looks.



The air recognition flag was made by first scanning a decal into a computer then reducing by 50 percent, before printing out onto plain paper, then cutting out and fixing to a piece of aluminium foil.

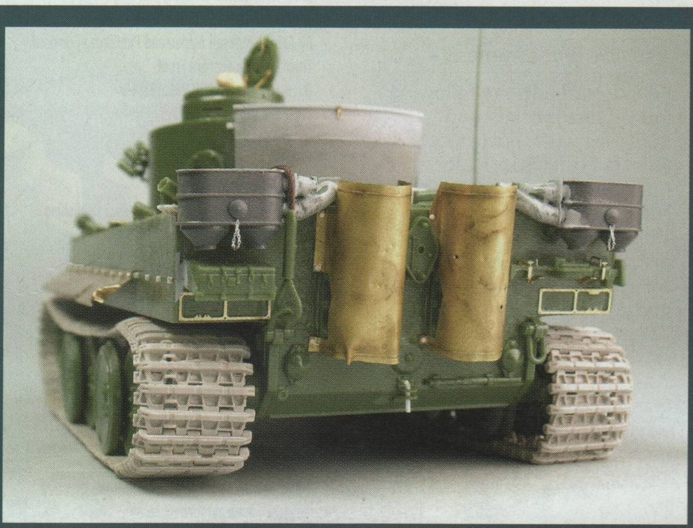


mesh was far too thick but this turned to joy as the etch set seems to almost disappear when painted. I then added the side plate mounting points to the hull sides. These were made from 30thou plastic strips cut into squares and glued into place. You will note from my construction pictures, these have been mounted on an incorrect angle and hence the rear mounting points are far too high. (I thankfully had this pointed out to me by a friend on a visit to my workshop before the model was finished) So I removed the mounting hardware and replaced it at the correct angle. I then added all of the Voyager and Hauler etch sets following the instructions given. I paid particular attention to bending the side plates and rear exhaust shrouds to show some battle damage. The shrouds themselves were bent with the small shop roller set and damaged before I attached them to the model. When these were attached I added bolt heads from by Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die set to both the shrouds and the side plates wherever necessary. The last step was to add a figure. I have used the upper torso and hands from the Tamiya tank commander figure that come in their figure set and a head from the Warriors 1:48 Flying tigers figure set. The arms were made from milliput and the hands from the Tamiya 1:48 scale infantry.

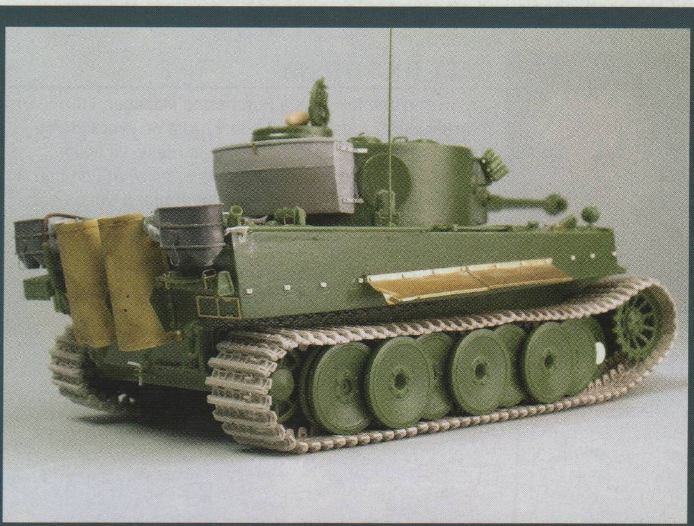
PAINTING AND WEATHERING

I always try and do something a little different when I paint, like a new approach or a different method. With this model I tried something I have never done before and painted an undercoat of XF-69 Nato Black. My reasoning behind this was to slowly add a panzer grey colour in stages to achieve the faded and dirty look I was after. The primer coat would also serve to black out all the areas of the model that would not normally be seen and cover the bare plastic or brass. I firstly sprayed the XF-69 mixed in a ratio of 70% thinner, 30% paint using a few passes to achieve a solid base coat. I then added the mud effect on the bottom of the hull and road wheels using a combination of Decoart Stucco (tinted with Tamiya XF-52 Flat earth) and gesso (A kind of stucco but thinner) I used ground dirt and tree roots with in this mix in a random pattern on the lower hull and road wheels.

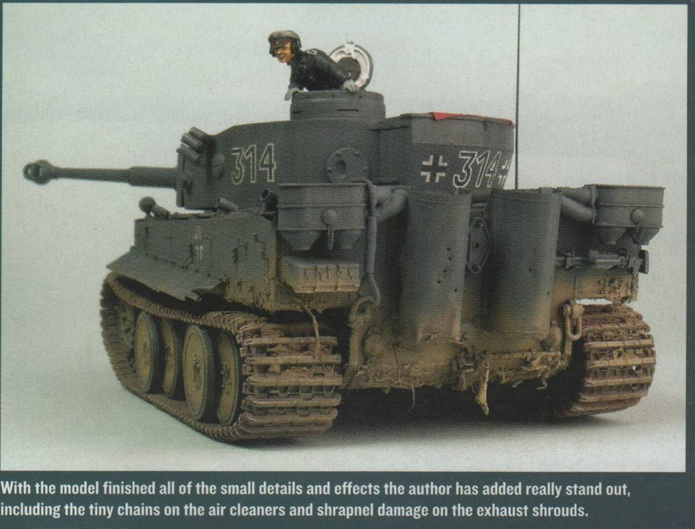
At this stage, I applied a thin coat of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey and Tamiya XF-18 Medium Blue in a 70/30-mix ratio, with more emphasis on the grey than the blue on the turret and hull. A spray pattern was applied over the top half of the vehicle in a random pattern. I then "rain streaked" the hull and turret sides with straight ▶



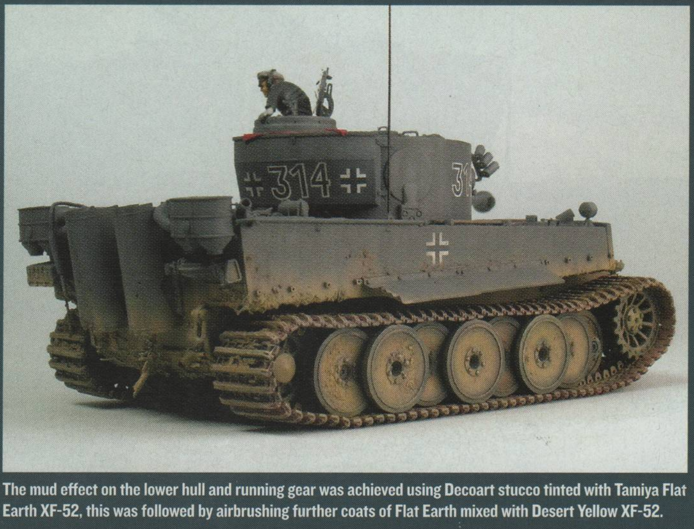
The author chose to swap the kit Feifel air cleaners for the later pattern ones included in the Tamiya Tiger kit. The Voyager brass exhaust shrouds look superb with some subtle battle damage.



World War 2 Productions resin individual link tracks are a big improvement over the rubber band style vinyl tracks included in the kit. Note the author's modified rear turret bin peculiar to sPz.Abt 503.



With the model finished all of the small details and effects the author has added really stand out, including the tiny chains on the air cleaners and shrapnel damage on the exhaust shrouds.



The mud effect on the lower hull and running gear was achieved using Decoart stucco tinted with Tamiya Flat Earth XF-52, this was followed by airbrushing further coats of Flat Earth mixed with Desert Yellow XF-52.

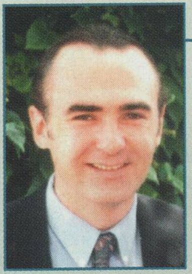
XF-63 thinned in an 85 percent thinner and 15 percent paint to give the model a very subtle weathering and paint fade effect. I generally like to use this effect on solid color subjects as it breaks the up the finish of a single colour subjects and makes them a little more interesting too look at.

The next step was to paint the tracks and lower hull. I have used a mix of XF-52 Flat Earth and XF-59 Desert Yellow on my model. I applied the Flat Earth on a 15 percent paint 65 percent ratio in a number of passes to ensure the whole of the underside of the hull and road wheels was covered. The tracks were painted in red brown with the ends or flats of the track painted with Vallejo Silver "848". Tiger I track always seems to display a polished metal finish on these ends. The last step was to apply small amounts of mud from the Tamiya Mud Weathering Stick with the aid of a tooth pick to the centre of each track link and a little on the back. I then hand painted the rubber portion of the road wheels and attached the tracks. On all points of contact PVA glue was applied to give a good solid bond. The entire lower hull was then given an oil wash with burnt umber first, and then lampblack. On both occasions I have used Zippo lighter fluid as a mixing agent as it dries more or less flat. The road wheels were then lightly dry brushed with a mix of Humbrol White and Wood Brown with a greater leaning toward white. When this was done, a very thin glaze of straight Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow in a mix of 10 percent paint 90 percent thinner was applied to the lower hull in slow deliberate stages. This glaze can be controlled and is most effective for taking the hard edge off dry brushing. The last step was to go back to the original Tamiya XF-63 German Grey mixed in the same ratio as before and touch up and 'streak" into some of the brown applied previously to the lower hull.

The last step is to attach the decals and I ran into major problems here, as I could just not find numerals in the correct height and colour. I managed to finally find some in my spares box but you will note the number "3" is incorrect in style. The air recognition flag was then applied after I had reduced it on a scanner by 50 percent and printed it on plain paper and attached it to aluminium lunch foil with PVA glue. The flag was then cut to shape and applied to the rear of the bin. After applying the decals and the flag I sprayed them and the model with a 50 percent Vallejo Matt Varnish 520 and 50 percent tap water mix to produce a dead flat finish.

CONCLUSION

The 1:48 Scale Skybow Tiger I is good if not better in terms of accuracy and build ability than most kits in all scales of this tank available today. The level of detail on this kit is outstanding given the scale. This is one of the few models I have built that required no filler at all. The kit has a few flaws with the main one being the tracks. But overall it is a model well worth purchasing. ■



MEET THE AUTHOR

I'm 46 and employed as a Purchasing Manager. I'm married with 2 kids aged 12 and 9. Just an average Joe trying to make the best models I can really. I'll build almost anything, but armour seems to be what I do now. I modelled when I was a teenager but stopped when I got interested in Girls and Beer! The problem was during that time I bought models but never made them! I took it up again about 14 years ago and do it in between fixing up the house, Work and taking the kids to sporting events! ■

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank the following individuals for help and guidance with this project. First is Frank Berger for all his input and advice. Frank runs a great little news group for anyone interested in 1:48 armour and his site is as follows; http://groups.yahoo.com/group/heavy-steel/ The second is Bill Wiseman for his part help and advice. And last but by no means least Brett Green for his advice on model photography.

Modelspec

Skybow Tiger 1 Early Production **Kit No.3833**

Materials

Tracks WWII Productions Track set	48001
Hauler etched brass grille set	HLX48031
Voyager etched brass set	VPE48005

Paints used

Tamiya; XF-63 German Grey, XF-69 Nato Black, XF-18 Medium Blue, XF-1 Black, XF-52 Flat Earth, XF-59 Desert Yellow

Humbrol; Metal Coat 27004 Gun metal, Grey Met 53, Matt White 34, Wood Brown 62

Vallejo; Silver 848, Matt Varnish 520

Weathering materials

Tamiya Weathering Stick item "87081"
Deco Art Light Earth Stucco "asto4"
Zippo Lighter Fluid
Winsor and Newton Burnt Umber
Winsor and Newton Lamp Black

Tools Used

Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set
Small Shop Brass Assist Roller set Mk Mc
Small Shop Hold and Fold

References

Der Panzerkampfwagon Tiger an Der Front
By Tomioka Yashikastsu and Kobayashi Motofum
ISBN 4-499-22688-0 Dainippon Kaiga
The Modelers Guide to the Tiger Tank
By Patrick Stansell Ampersand Publishing Company
Tiger 1 on the Eastern Front
By Jean Restayn ISBN 290818281-5
Tiger 1 in Action No 8
By Uwe Feist
Squadron Signal Publications
Tigers in Combat
By Wolfgang Schneider JJ Fedorowicz Publishing
ISBN 0921991-53-3
Ground Power 1996 No 6
Delta Publishing
Panzer
By Horst Scheibert ISBN 0-88-740-207-0

✓ Stunning detail throughout.
✗ Rubber band style tracks.

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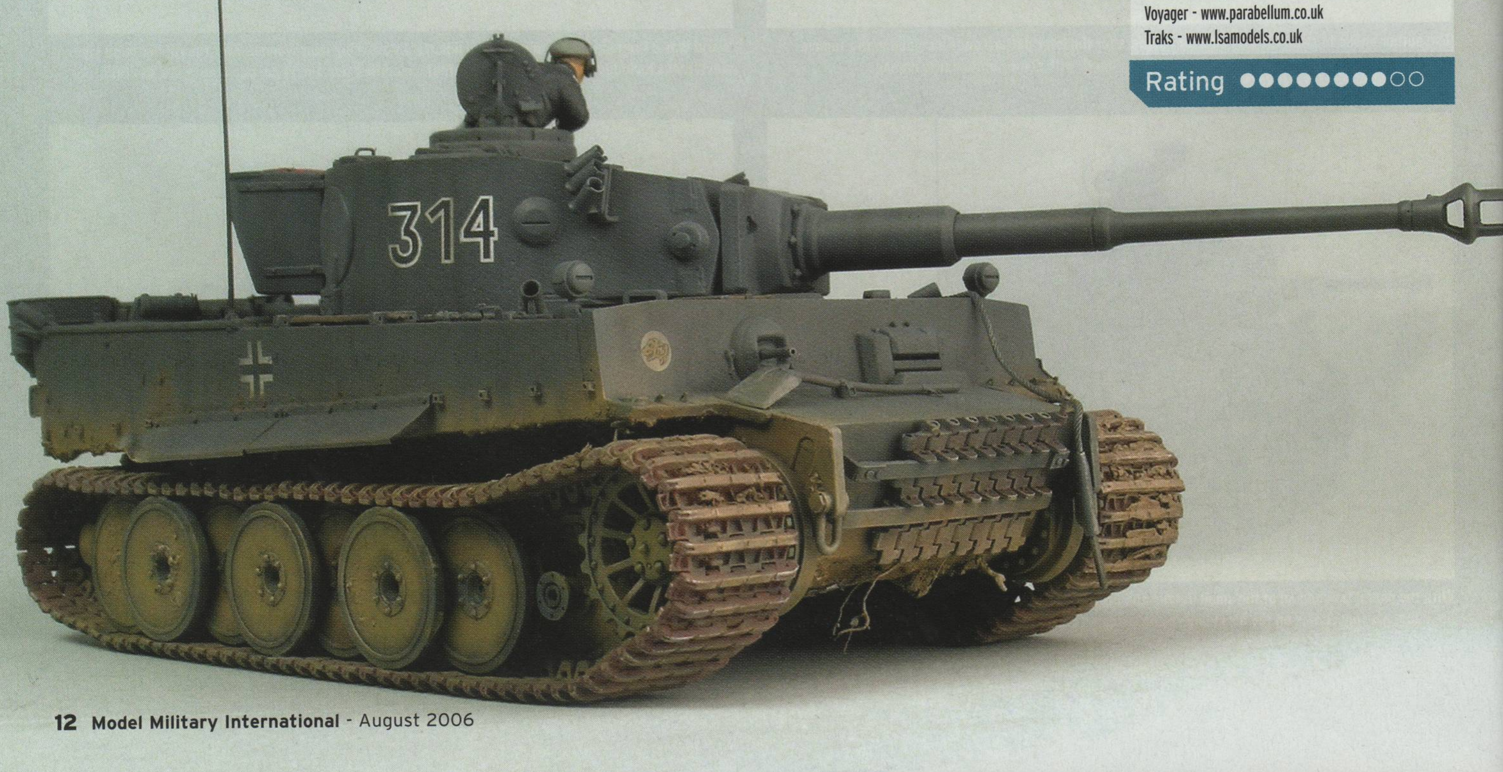
Skybow - www.parabellum.co.uk
Hauler - www.parabellum.co.uk
Voyager - www.parabellum.co.uk
Traks - www.lsamodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



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2297 British Infantry WWII (2 Fig.) 1:35

2302 Rough Cobblestones Road Section 1:48

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Kit Contents

2303
Asphalt Damaged Street /
Road Section 1:35

2304 Afrika Korps Running
WWII (2 Fig.) 1:35

2300 Tiger I E Interior
New Tooling
(for Dragon 6253) 1:35

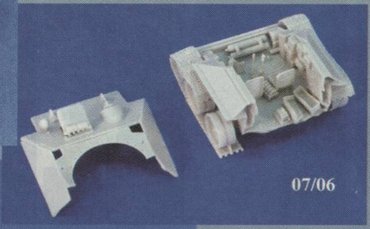
2305 Rescue G.I.'s WWII (2 Fig.)
1:35

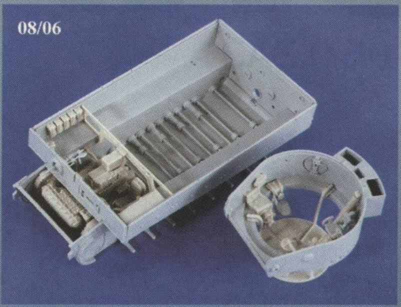
2301 Blown T34 Front 1:48

2298 German Dispatch Riders (2 Fig.) 1:48

2306 German Panzer Officer WWII 120mm

2299 Home Goods (Modern) from 1950's Set I 1:35



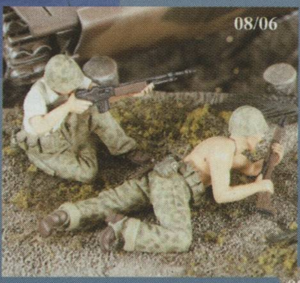


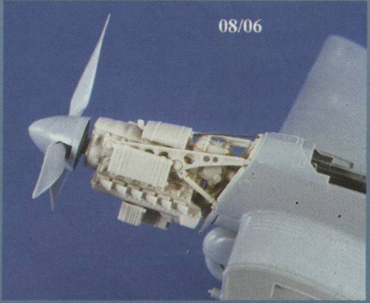
2307 Trough the Hatch Tiger I E (Dragon 6253) 1:35

Kit Contents

2308 Streets of Baghdad
(Diorama Base) 1:35

2313
Marines WWII
(2 Fig.) 1:35





2310 Ju87G Stuka Engine
(Hasegawa 08075) 1:32

Kit Contents

2309 Country Side
Cobblestone Section
1:48

Kit Contents
08/06

2311
Luftwaffe
Gun Testing
Platform 1:72

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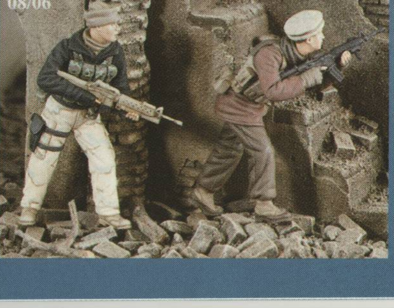
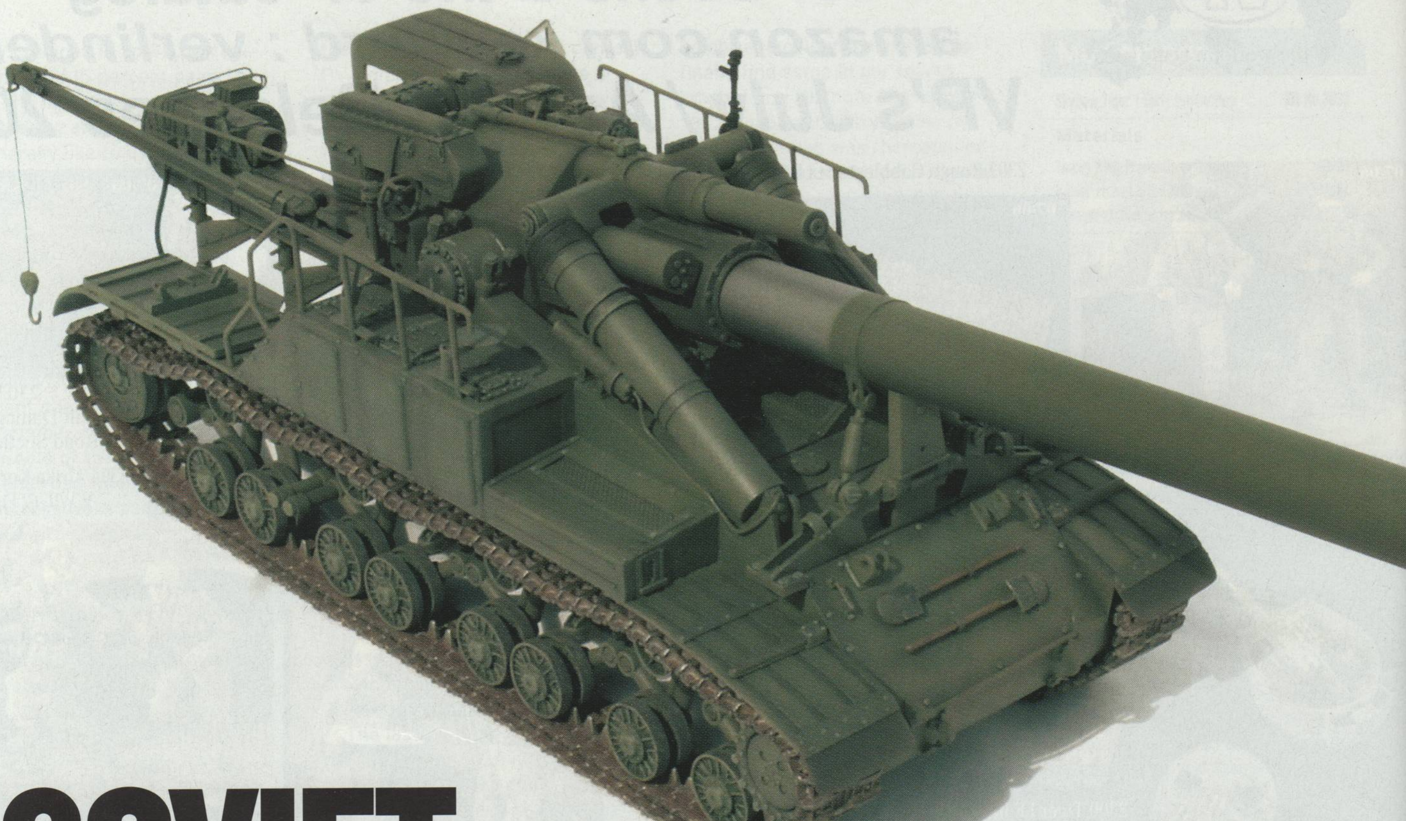
Navy Seals
Afghanistan
(2 Fig.) 1:35





SOVIET SUPERGUN!

David Bridges scratchbuilds a 1:35 model of the 406.4mm (16″) 2A3 "Kondensator" Nuclear Self Propelled Gun.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, missile technology had yet to become reliable, and nuclear projectiles had only two main methods of delivery: by aircraft and by artillery. Both the United States and the Soviet Union manufactured and fielded nuclear artillery pieces. The United States produced the "Atomic Annie" 280mm gun for use as a tactical battlefield nuclear weapon delivery system, but in true Cold War style, the Soviets made an effort to one-up such a system. In fact, they "two-up'ed" it by creating two types of nuclear gun. One was essentially a 420mm mortar system known as the 2B1 "Oka." The second was a traditional type of gun/barrel system designated the 406.4mm SM-54 Nuclear Overheavy Gun, 2A3 "Kondensator."

The Kondensator was created in the period between 1954 and 1957, right after the United States had introduced the Atomic Annie cannon in 1953. The 2A3 was intended to break up NATO battlefield staging areas and battle groups from as far away as 25.6km using a nuclear artillery round. It was based on the T-10 tank chassis and drive train, though this was highly modified and strengthened to support the massive recoil forces and the 64-ton weight of the vehicle. The sole nuclear round carried on board weighed 570kg and the vehicle had a rate of fire of one round every 5 minutes. Top speed was 30km/h and the vehicle had only a driver: the rest of the crew rode into battle separately.

Western officials first learned of the Kondensator when it was shown publicly on the Red Square in 1957. Though certainly a frightening looking vehicle that caught the West's attention, it was not as impressive in the field. Its size, weight, and lack of mobility made it more of a hindrance than an asset, and the chassis had a habit of cracking and breaking over time due to the gun's recoil forces. Most of the 2A3's problems were ultimately resolved, and it was accepted into service with the Reserve of the Artillery High Command. Nikita Khrushchev, however, was not impressed with these vehicles, and he much favoured the development of rockets and missiles. In the end, all four of the 2A3's and the three 2B1's produced were withdrawn from service in the mid 1960's.

GETTING STARTED

I first came across the vehicle when working at a hobby shop back in 1998. A Militaria magazine did a small photo article on both the 2A3 and the 2B1, and I was intrigued. A short while later, I happened across an issue of the Tankograd Gazette which had an in-depth two part article about both of these vehicles. Once again, my interest was piqued, and I knew I had to build one of these monsters. But at the time, my skills weren't that great and I was in college, so I set aside the idea for a later date.

In mid 2003, I finally decided that it was time to begin building my Kondensator. I had a good set of photographs from the Tankograd Gazette article, as well as some photos I found online. I was ready to begin, but I was a little overwhelmed by the complexity of the whole thing. I knew I first had to break the vehicle down into an easy to understand format much clearer than a mass of black and white photos. I began by taking measurements and drawing out the basic structure of the hull and suspension. From there, I drew out all of the other major assemblies that I would have to add to the hull to give the vehicle its basic shape.

Once I had a set of schematics to work with, I then broke these drawings down into templates drawn out on heavy paper. Using these templates I was able to make all of the most basic structural parts, the first of which were the hull sides, belly plate, and the massive trunnions to which the cannon would mount. Using templates allowed me to repeatedly and accurately make duplicate parts out of sheet styrene. These parts were then laminated together with plastic cement, sort of like a big sandwich of plastic card. Seams were then filled with putty and sanded down to insure uniformity. Using this method of sandwiching parts together allowed me to easily get both strength and accuracy for these essential first building blocks of my model.

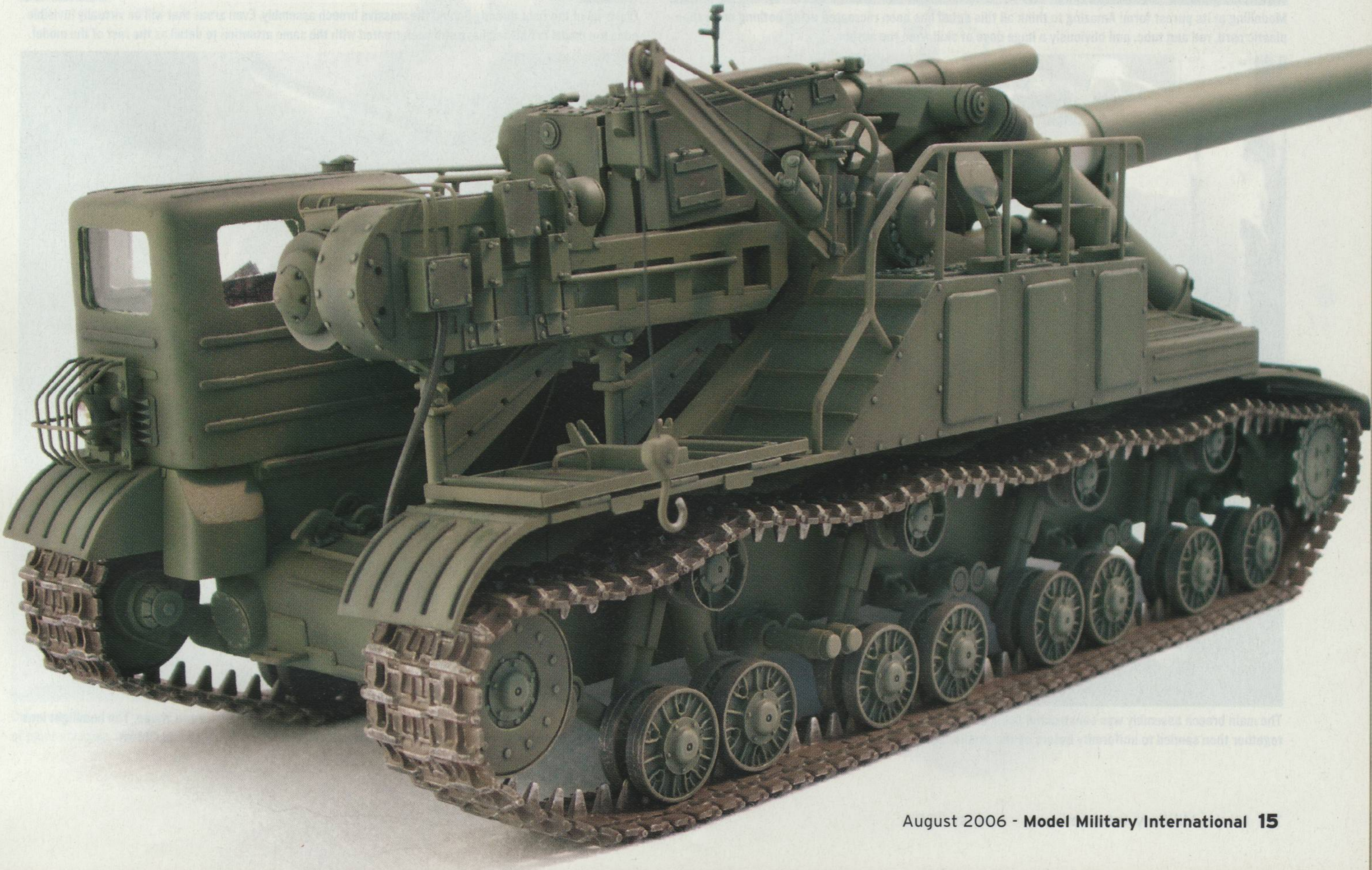
BASIC STRUCTURE

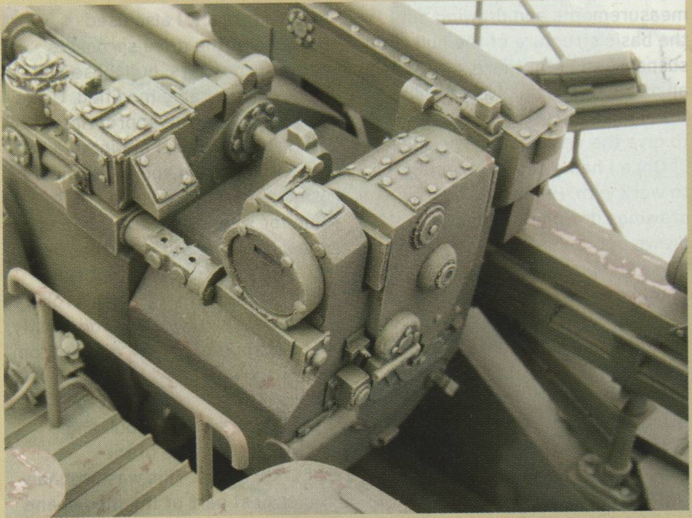
After I had the basics of the hull completed, I continued on, as I would with most any manufactured kit; I built up the suspension. This is the only part of the model where I used largely unmodified kit supplied parts. The road wheels, torsion bar arms, and tracks came from two DML IS-2 kits that I had purchased years ago specifically for this project. I also used portions of the drive sprockets and return rollers, but these had to be considerably modified. Using a jig to ensure the appropriate ground clearance, I mounted all of the torsion arms and road wheels using generous amounts of CA glue for strength. Once this was done, I built all of the suspension strengthening buffers that run from the arms to the return rollers using plastic tubing and rod. Lastly, I scratchbuilt the idler wheels from sheet styrene.

From there I moved on to finishing the hull and building up the basic shape of the superstructure. This was probably the easiest part of the model, and just required the building of large boxes, rectangles, and curved structures, which could be detailed later with smaller assemblies. The area of the model between the trunnions was also fleshed out a bit by adding the floor of the vehicle as well as the area where the engine deck would later go.

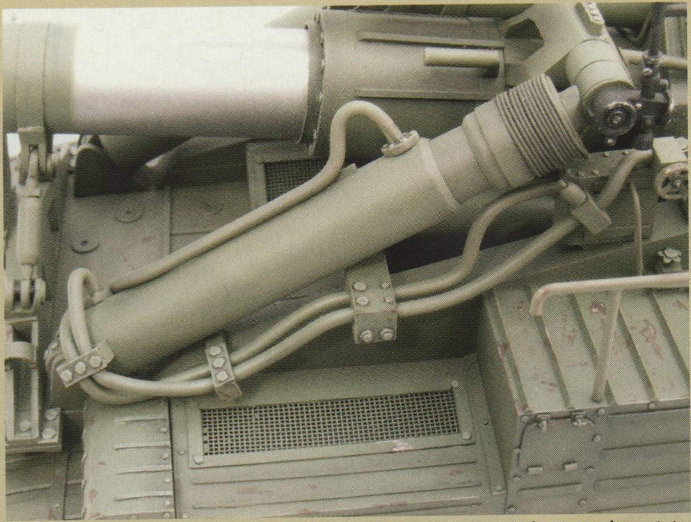
The last major basic assembly that had to be built was the most complex and mind bending of the entire model: the SM-54 cannon. The barrel was quite easy, I was lucky and found a large piece of Plastruct tubing that matched perfectly with both the inner and outer diameters that I needed for the barrel. But the body and the breech of the cannon itself were more difficult. These parts were made using the same "plastic

▶

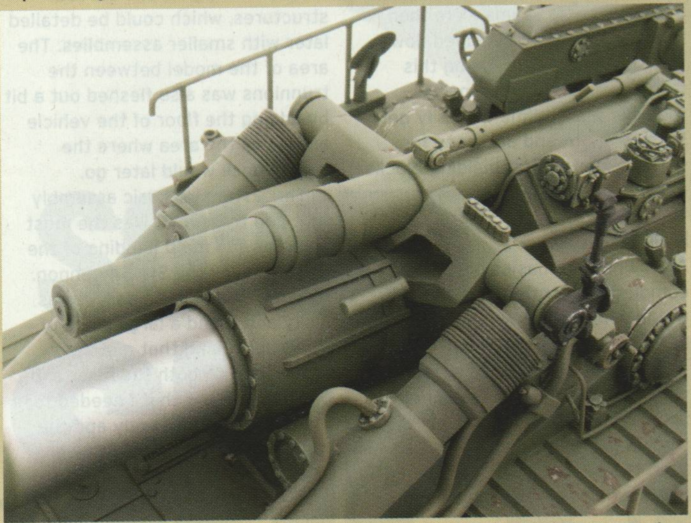




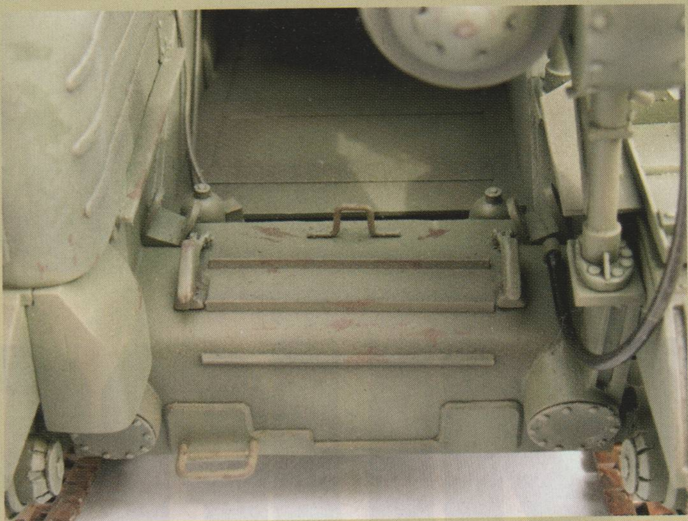
With complicated structures such as the breech assembly the author broke these down into their simplest form, generally either boxes or cylinders, this makes the building process far less daunting.



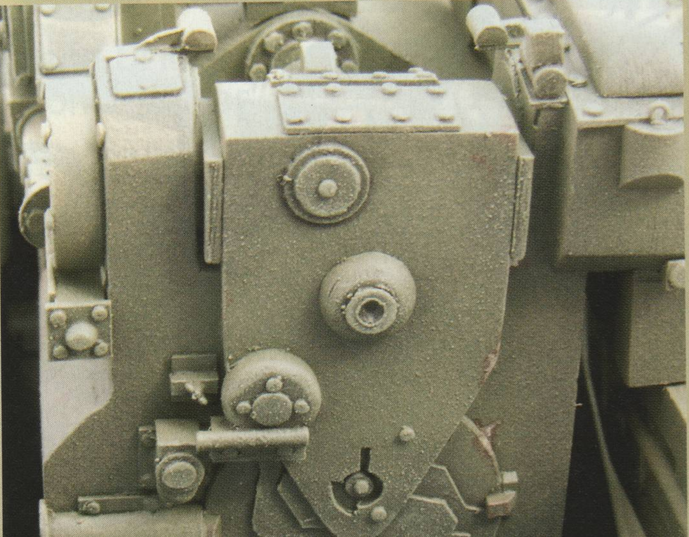
The barrel elevating hydraulic cylinders were, according to the author, the most time consuming parts to fabricate on the entire model. Note the realistic polished finish on the lower section of the barrel.



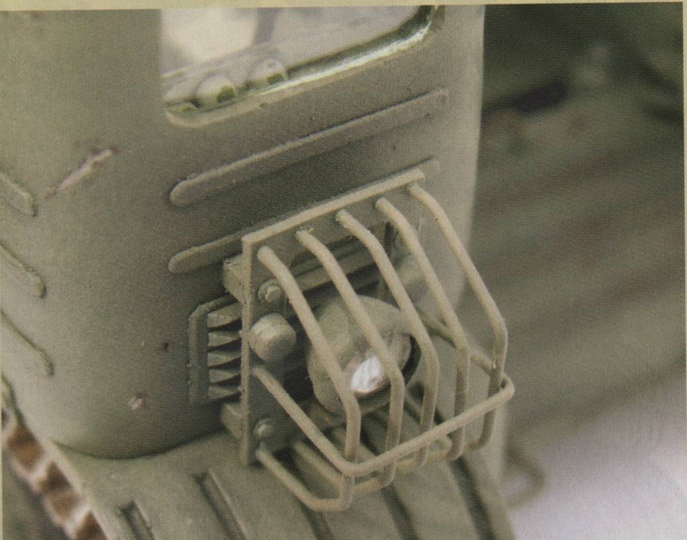
Modelling at its purest form! Amazing to think all this detail has been recreated using nothing more than plastic card, rod and tube, and obviously a huge dose of skill from the author.



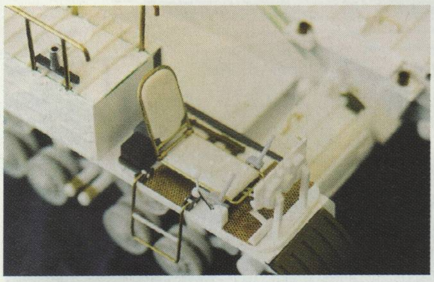
Close-up of the floor directly behind the massive breech assembly. Even areas that will be virtually invisible once the model is finished have still been treated with the same attention to detail as the rest of the model.

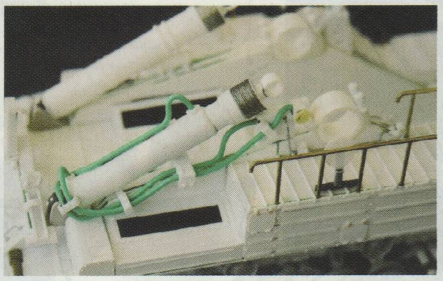


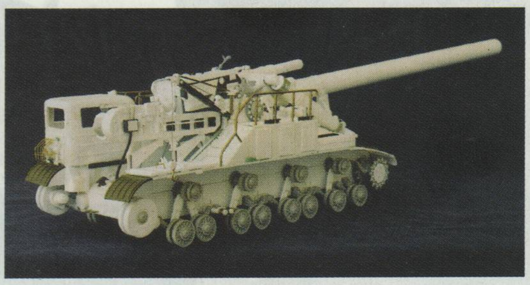
The main breech assembly was constructed using a sandwich of identical plastic card pieces glued together then sanded to uniformity before all the smaller details were attached.



The cage over the headlight was made by forming lengths of thin brass wire to shape. The headlight lens itself came from MV Products and the front fenders came from the Trumpeter IS-3M kit.







sandwich" method I described earlier, followed by lots of puttying and sanding to get exactly the right shape. Once this was done, I was able to move on to the smaller assemblies.

SUBASSEMBLIES

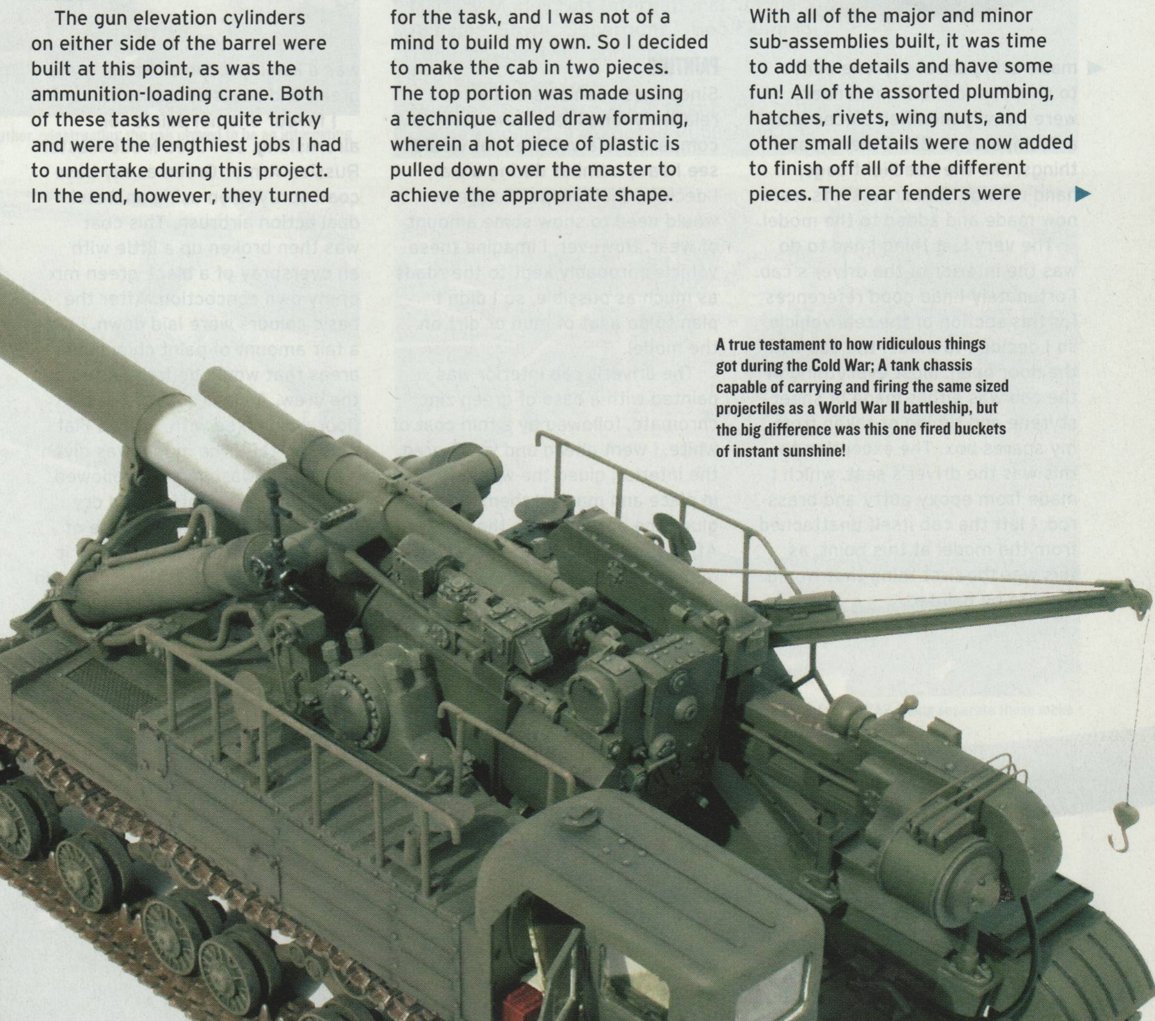
With the basic structure of both the vehicle and the cannon laid out, I was now ready to move on to building the smaller pieces that would really make this mess of plastic begin to look like something. The engine deck was made as a drop in assembly to fit between the cannon trunnions. The exhaust assemblies, over the place where the fenders would later be, were also built as a drop in assembly. Much of the travel lock and ammo loading tray were built using the sandwich method of like pieces of plastic glued together to get the appropriate width, upon which the fine details were later added.

The gun elevation cylinders on either side of the barrel were built at this point, as was the ammunition-loading crane. Both of these tasks were quite tricky and were the lengthiest jobs I had to undertake during this project. In the end, however, they turned out quite well and are quite a bit sturdier than they look!

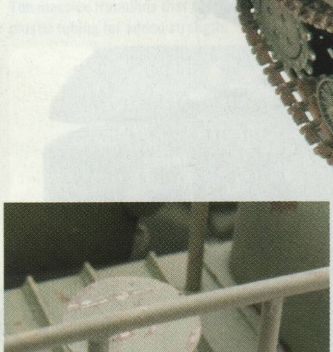
The basic shell of the driver's cab was the last of the minor assemblies that had to be built and required that I learn some new skills. A wooden master was first made of the cab, with the intention of vacuum forming the thing in one big piece. However, the vacuum machine I borrowed was too small for the task, and I was not of a mind to build my own. So I decided to make the cab in two pieces. The top portion was made using a technique called draw forming, wherein a hot piece of plastic is pulled down over the master to achieve the appropriate shape. The sides of the cab were made by wrapping pieces of plastic around the cab using rubber bands, and then boiling them in water to get them to maintain the right shape. Both pieces were then trimmed to fit, glued together, and then finished off with some epoxy putty to get just the right shape.

ADDING DETAILS

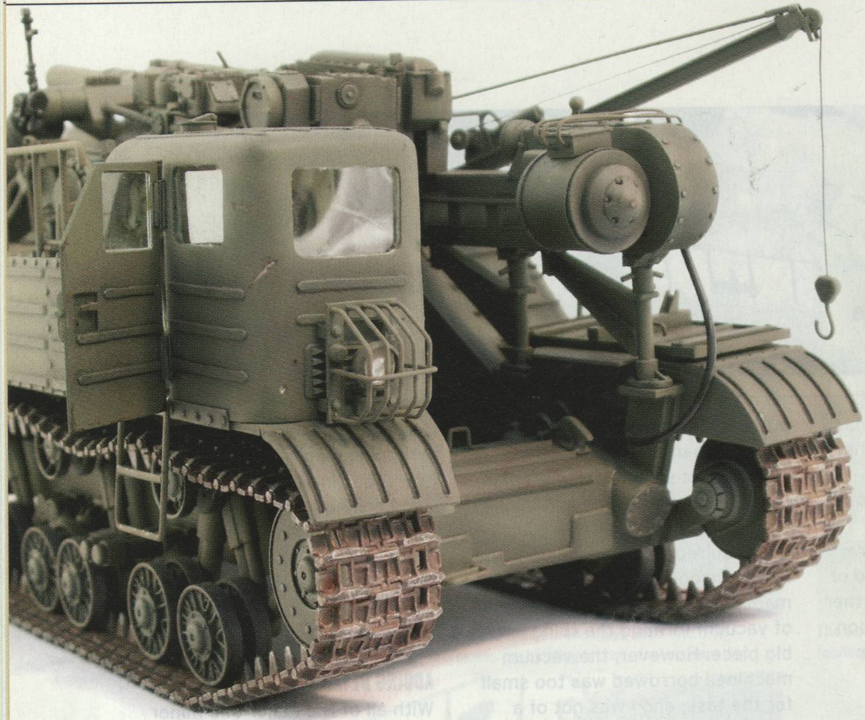
With all of the major and minor sub-assemblies built, it was time to add the details and have some fun! All of the assorted plumbing, hatches, rivets, wing nuts, and other small details were now added to finish off all of the different pieces. The rear fenders were



A true testament to how ridiculous things got during the Cold War; A tank chassis capable of carrying and firing the same sized projectiles as a World War II battleship, but the big difference was this one fired buckets of instant sunshine!



Close-up of one of the crew's seats showing signs of paint chipping from constant use.



Detail shot of the built-in crane including the loading tray and hydraulic ram assembly. Note that the author has kept the weathering very subtle and restrained.

made using sheet styrene bent to shape, and the front fenders were heavily modified pieces from a Trumpeter IS-3M. Other small things, like the headlight cage, hand railings, and crew seats were now made and added to the model.

The very last thing I had to do was the interior of the driver's cab. Fortunately I had good references for this section of the real vehicle, so I decided to model the cab with the door open. Most everything in the cab was either made of sheet styrene and tubing or taken from my spares box. The exception to this was the driver's seat, which I made from epoxy putty and brass rod. I left the cab itself unattached from the model at this point, as this was the first thing that would need to be painted.

PAINTING

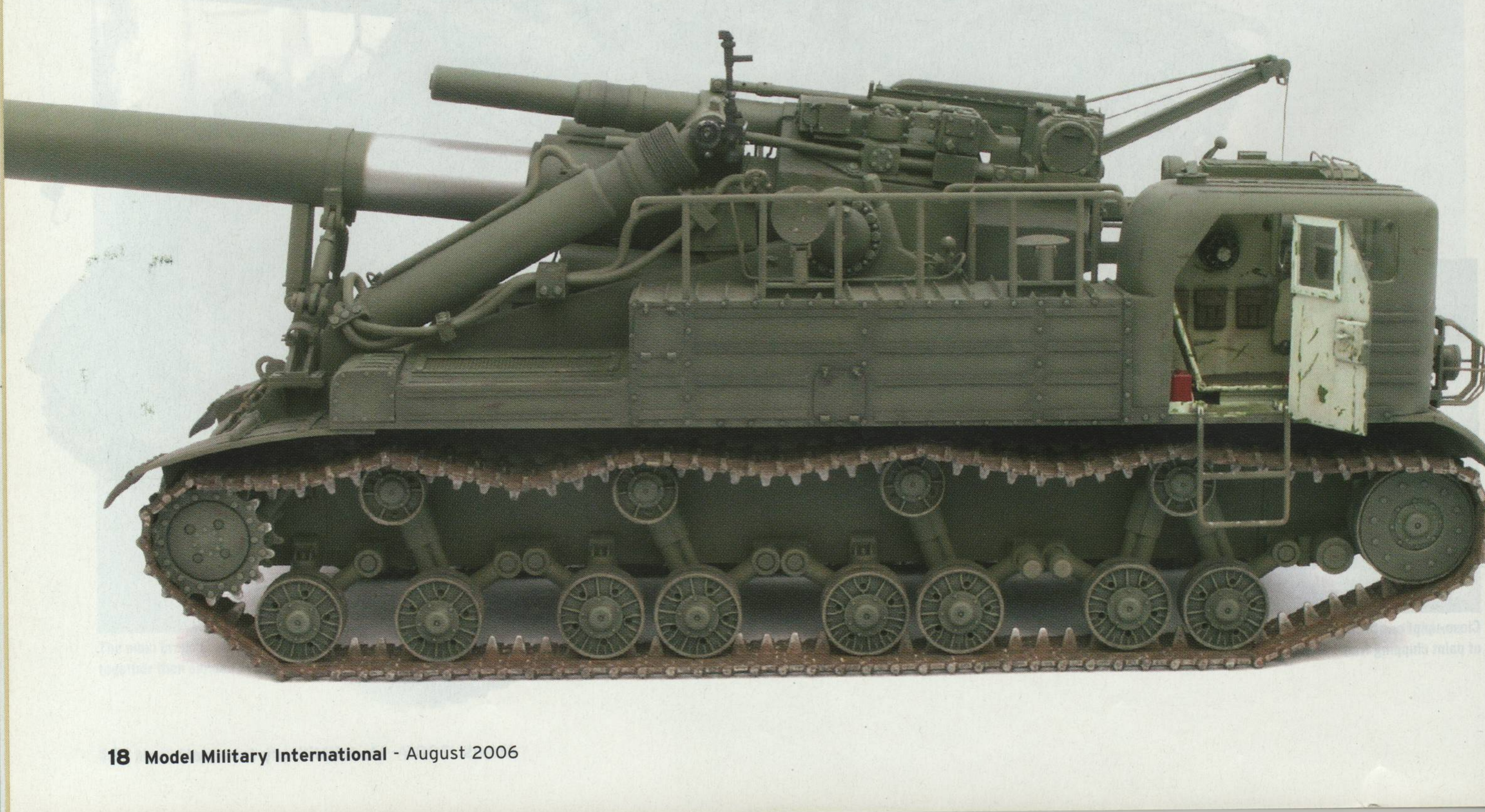
Since these vehicles had a relatively long lifespan when compared to a vehicle that would see heavy combat during a war, I decided that the paint scheme would need to show some amount of wear. However, I imagine these vehicles probably kept to the roads as much as possible, so I didn't plan to do a lot of mud or dirt on the model.

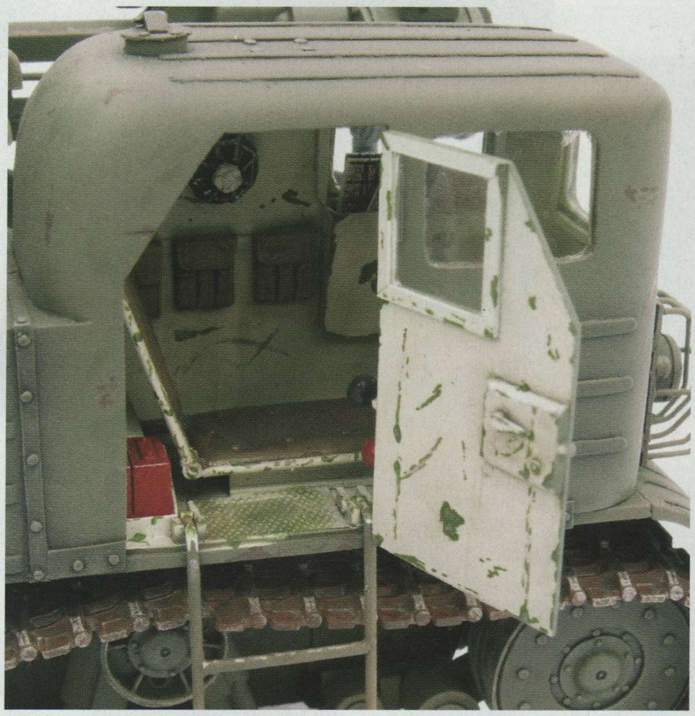
The driver's cab interior was painted with a base of green zinc chromate, followed by a thin coat of white. I went ahead and weathered the interior, glued the windows in place and masked them. I then glued the entire cab to the vehicle. After this I gave the model a coat of grey primer to ensure an even base coat later, as the model itself was a kaleidoscope of white, grey, green and brass by this time.

I favour enamel paints for airbrushing, so I used ModelMaster Russian Armor Green as my base coat, sprayed on using an Aztek dual action airbrush. This coat was then broken up a little with an overspray of a black-green mix of my own concoction. After the basic colours were laid down, I did a fair amount of paint chipping in areas that would be frequented by the crew. A clear coat of Future floor wax mixed with Tamiya Flat followed this. The model was given a black pin wash overall, followed by a pretty straightforward dry brushing of a lightened shade of Russian Armor Green. To bring it all together, I airbrushed a dark tan filter over the whole of the model, to both tie everything together and to give the illusion of a bit of road dust that has settled onto the vehicle.

CONCLUSION

All in all, this was the most rewarding modelling project that I have completed to date. From start to finish it took me about 2 years to complete this model. It was a project that I learned quite a bit from and one, which forced me to broaden my skills and learn new techniques. Using a method of starting out with simple and basic assemblies and then adding on successively more detail, I think I was able to create a model that stands out as unique, both in my display case and on the competition table. ■





The cab was treated as a separate model by the Author, constructing the cab proved to be an interesting challenge as the Author describes in the main text.

MEET THE AUTHOR

The mopey looking mug you see here belongs to me, David Bridges. I have been building scale models for most of my 26 years, as far back as I can remember. I started building models with my dad when I was very young, and I cut my teeth mostly on aircraft and automotive subjects. For all my life I have had an abiding interest in aviation, which led me to getting my pilot's license as well as my career as an air traffic controller. However, military history of all kinds has always been a keen interest of mine, and military vehicles caught my fancy when I was in high school. I built my first tank, a Nichimo Panther G, when I was 16 and I have been a dedicated military modeller ever since. However, I do commit the occasional act of heresy and build an aircraft model from time to time. I tend to model mostly assault guns and self propelled artillery from the Second World War, but anything of that era that is German or Russian I'll probably be likely to build. I must take the time to thank my wife, Lisa, for accepting me and my hobby and even building a model or two herself from time to time. ■

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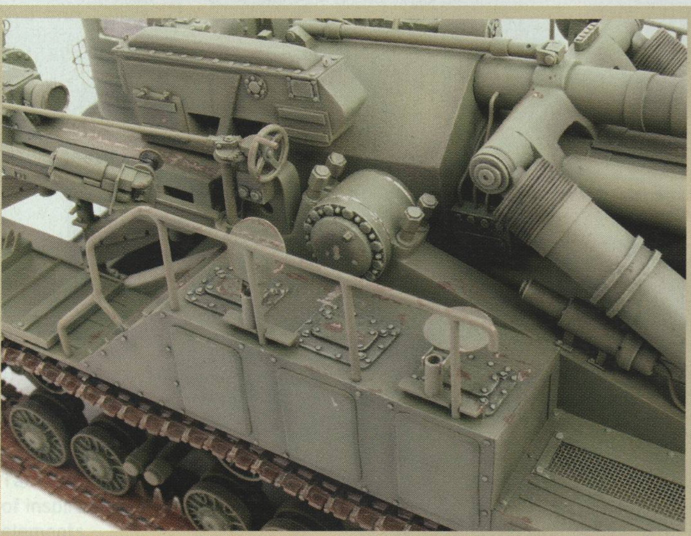
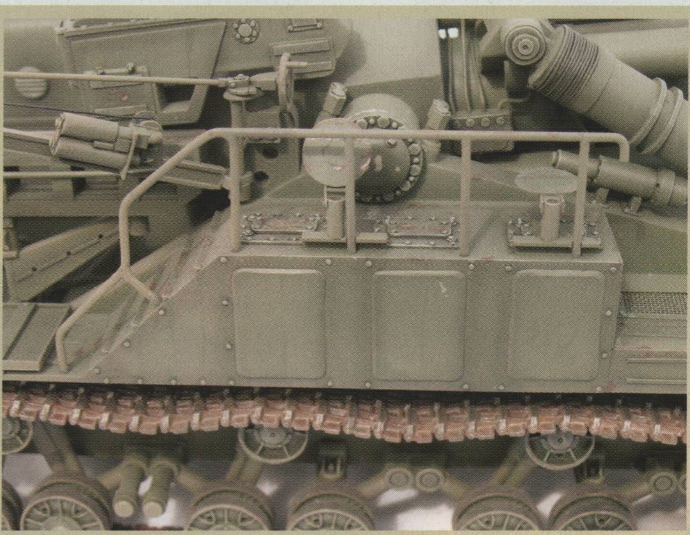
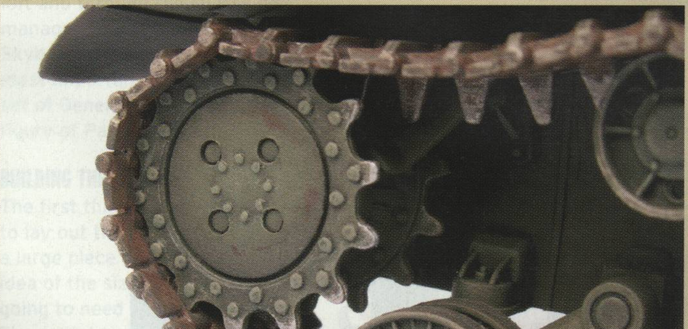
Number 11, January 2001; Number 12, April 2001.
Jochen Vollert, Tankograd Publishing.



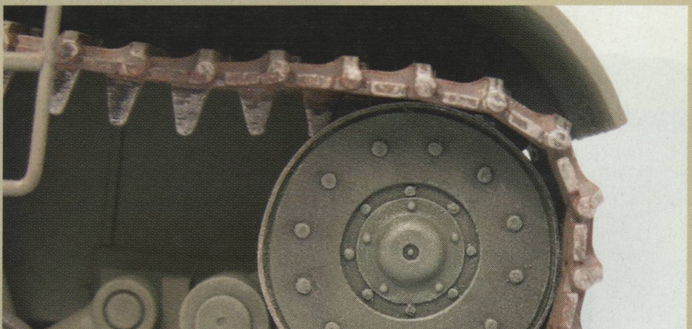
The massive trunnions that support the gun barrel were constructed by inserting wooden dowels inside plastic tubing for added strength.



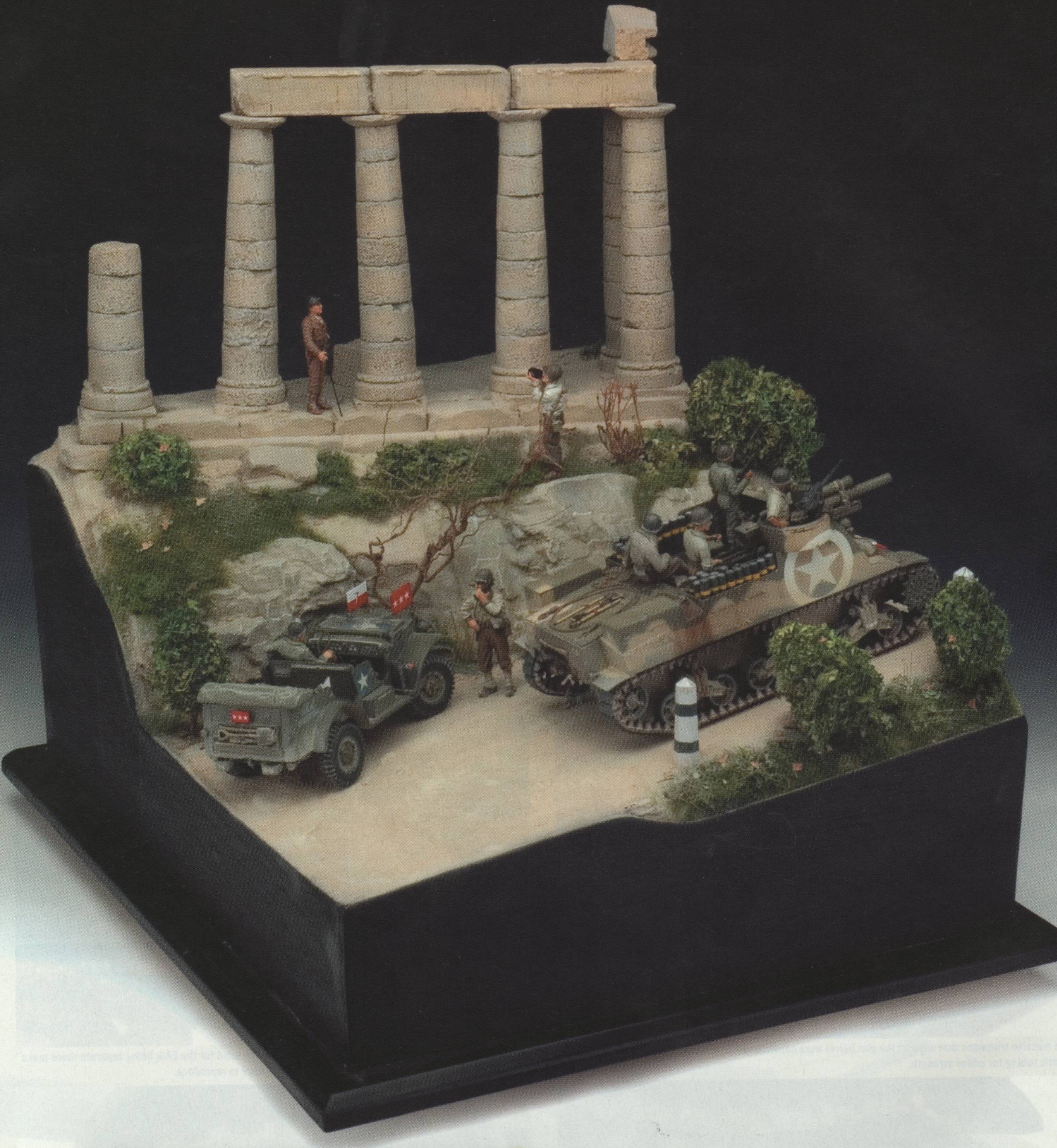
Dragon's IS-2 individual injection styrene tracks have been used for the 2A3, being separate these make replicating the distinctive sag seen on all Soviet tanks easy to reproduce.



The drive sprocket came from the Dragon IS-2 kit but needed heavy modification before it would be accurate for the 2A3.



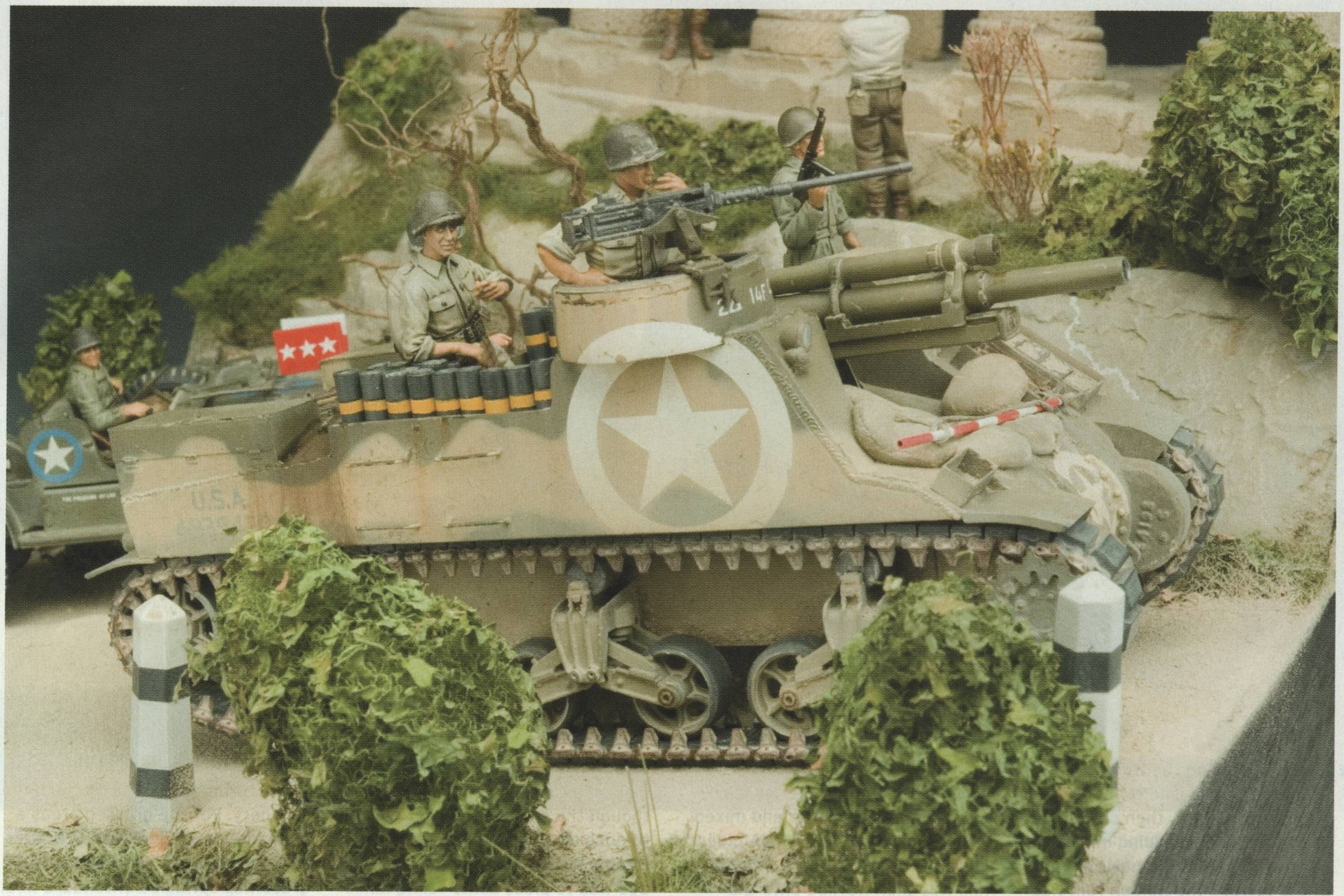
The Author used a small coin as a template for the idler wheel. The centre hub came from one of the Dragon IS-2 roadwheels.



PALERMO POUNDER

PART 2

The Editor completes his article based around the Ordnance Models Early M7 Priest.



The small bushes in the foreground were made by sticking Woodland Scenic's Poly Fibre onto small roots from the garden with a couple of drops of PVA glue. Once dry the Poly Fibre was sprayed with 3M Photo Mount before sprinkling the herb parsley onto them. In reality the surrounding area would be thick with dust from the endless columns of Allied armour moving over these un-paved roadways of Sicily.

The idea for this diorama came about from watching a re-run of the movie, 'Patton' with George C Scott at the time I was having fun building the M7 Priest. This and thumbing through the old Tanks Illustrated book on Patton's Tanks. I had a very rare moment of inspiration to combine all these elements.

After a rummage up in the loft and through the spares box, managed to find a partially built Skybow Dodge command car and most importantly the old Tamiya set of Generals which included a figure of Patton himself.

BUILDING THE BASE

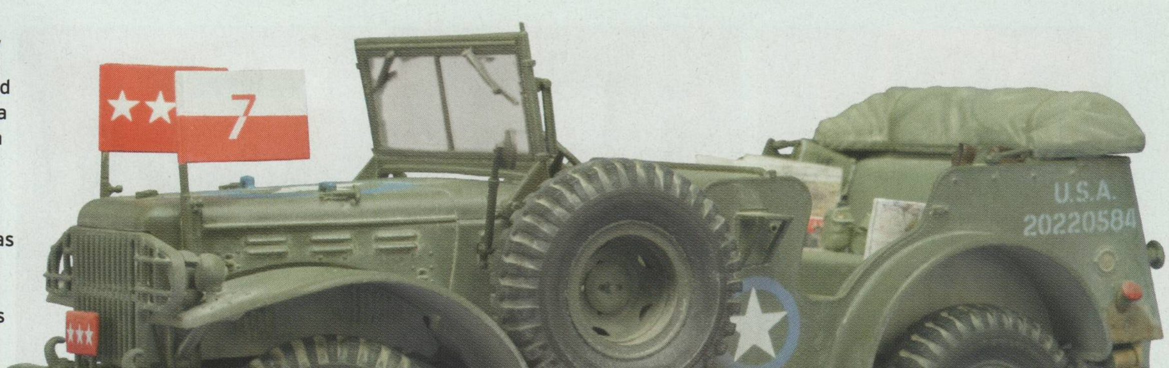
The first thing I needed to do was to lay out the major items onto a large piece of paper to get an idea of the size base board I was going to need for the diorama. The secret here is to be able to fit everything on but not be so small that it all looks cramped or too large and have lots of dead space.

Once all the shuffling of the components had finished, I knew what size base was required and that was 39cm by 33cm. My local supplier 'Just Bases' made the MDF baseboard.

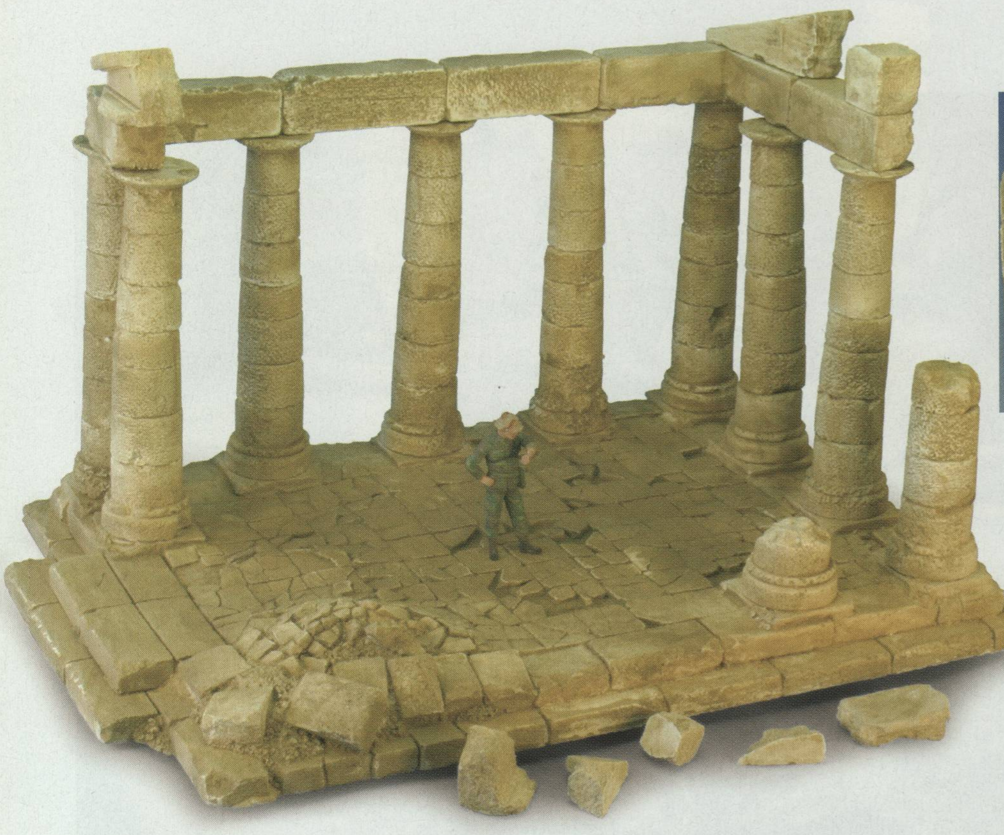
What was required next was to glue several layers of expanded polystyrene sheets together and place as a block onto the base. The MDF was first scored with a craft knife to help the PVA wood glue get the best bond possible, once the glue had been applied and the polystyrene block attached, a pile of old, heavy books was stacked on top and left overnight to dry.

Whilst the glue was setting on the base I used the time to cut the Roman ruin to the required size and assemble the columns. It was a tricky operation to cut the plaster ruins base, having first marked out the area to be removed I very carefully and slowly sawed off the excess with a coping saw; too much speed or pressure can easily crack or worse, break off a large chunk by accident. The edge that had been sawn was cleaned up with a decorators sanding pad.

The next day with the help of a large wood saw I cut out a section of Ppolystyrene to make way for the cliff face and road way. Now that I had the basic shape, the sides were added from thin modelling plywood, it was simply ►



Skybow's Dodge command car used by the Editor was built from the box. Note the blue circle surrounding the star on the vehicles side as explained in the article.



In these two photos the Great North Roads Roman Ruin (GNR 037) shows it complete as supplied, a colour wash has been applied to bring out the detail in this impressive plaster casting for the photo. A figure has been placed on the base to the left to give a sense of scale.

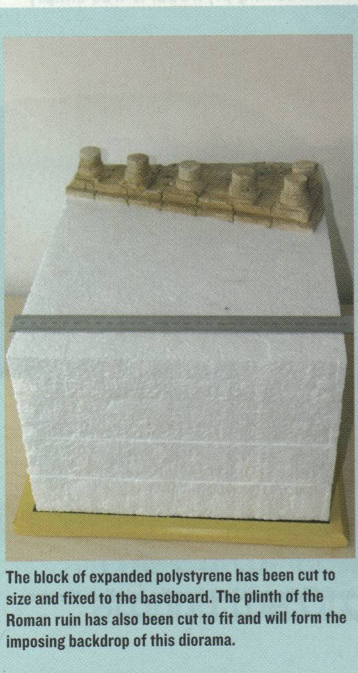
a case of placing the wood against each side in turn and tracing the edge with a pencil, then cutting out each panel before gluing in place.

Now that I had the basic shape of the terrain, the Roman ruin was set in place along with the exposed rock sections above the roadway. The rock face pieces are from the model railroad manufacturer Woodland Scenics. They offer a range soft rubber moulds featuring various forms of rock face and boulders; it is then simply a case of mixing up some plaster of Paris and pouring into the moulds. I think they are perfect for adding that extra height and dimension to a diorama.

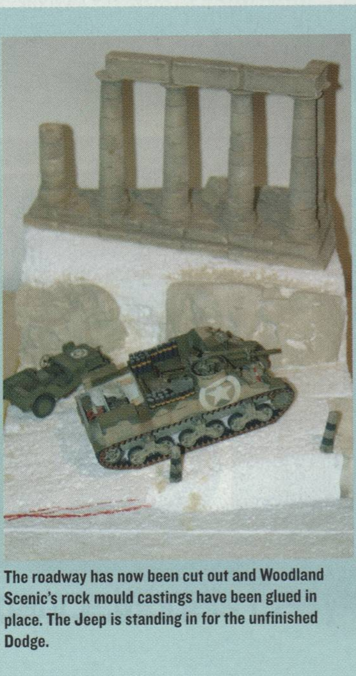
To blend in and tie these elements together, interior filler was thinned with water and mixed with a small amount of PVA glue and Tamiya XF57 Buff paint. This mix was then worked onto the groundwork with the aid of a large paintbrush and a modelling spatula. Whilst this mix was drying some more diluted PVA glue was gently brushed on before covering all the wetted areas with a combination of very fine chinchilla dust available from pet shops and ordinary talcum powder. This combination makes a very fine-grained and dusty looking surface.

Once a skin had started to form on the filler I gently placed the vehicles onto the groundwork, making sure they didn't break though the skin causing wet plaster to ooze all over the wheels and tracks! A useful tip I learnt a while ago was to place some "cling film" onto the surface first, this then keeps the filler from messing the wheels or tracks up on the model.

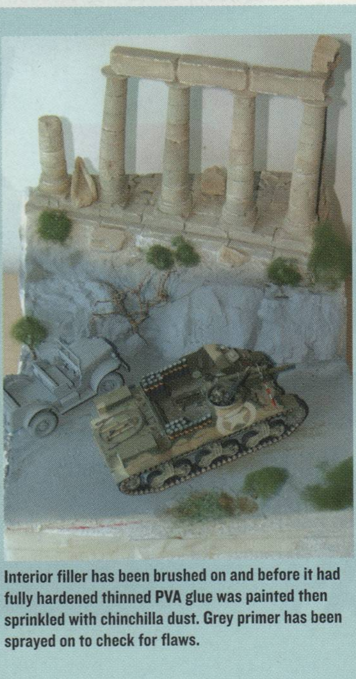
With all the main elements in place the rock face and road area was given a coat of grey primer to help highlight any areas that may require some extra attention. Once I was happy that everything looked OK, it was time to give the entire base a airbrushing with a mix of Tamiya Buff and Deck Tan. The groundwork was now really starting to take shape, and at this point I started to make up and attach the greenery. For the grassed areas a combination of Woodland Scenics static grass flock and Heiki long grass was sprinkled onto more PVA glue. For the bushes and shrubs small roots from the garden were used as the branches and stems, onto which Woodland Scenics Poly-Fibre was fixed with a couple of drops of PVA, then parsley herbs were sprinkled on and fixed with 3M Photo mount. Theses bushes and shrubs were all sprayed in various shades of yellow and light green, with the odd leaf brush painted in brown to simulate dead or dying leaves.



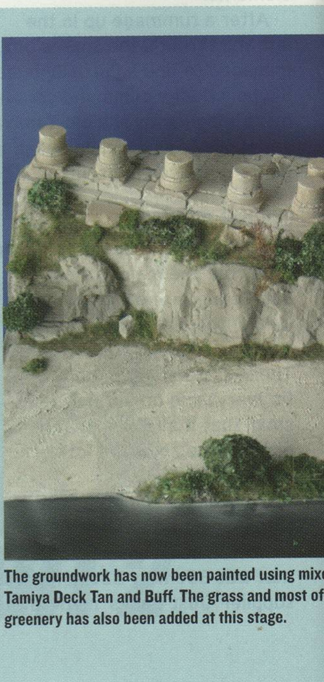
The block of expanded polystyrene has been cut to size and fixed to the baseboard. The plinth of the Roman ruin has also been cut to fit and will form the imposing backdrop of this diorama.



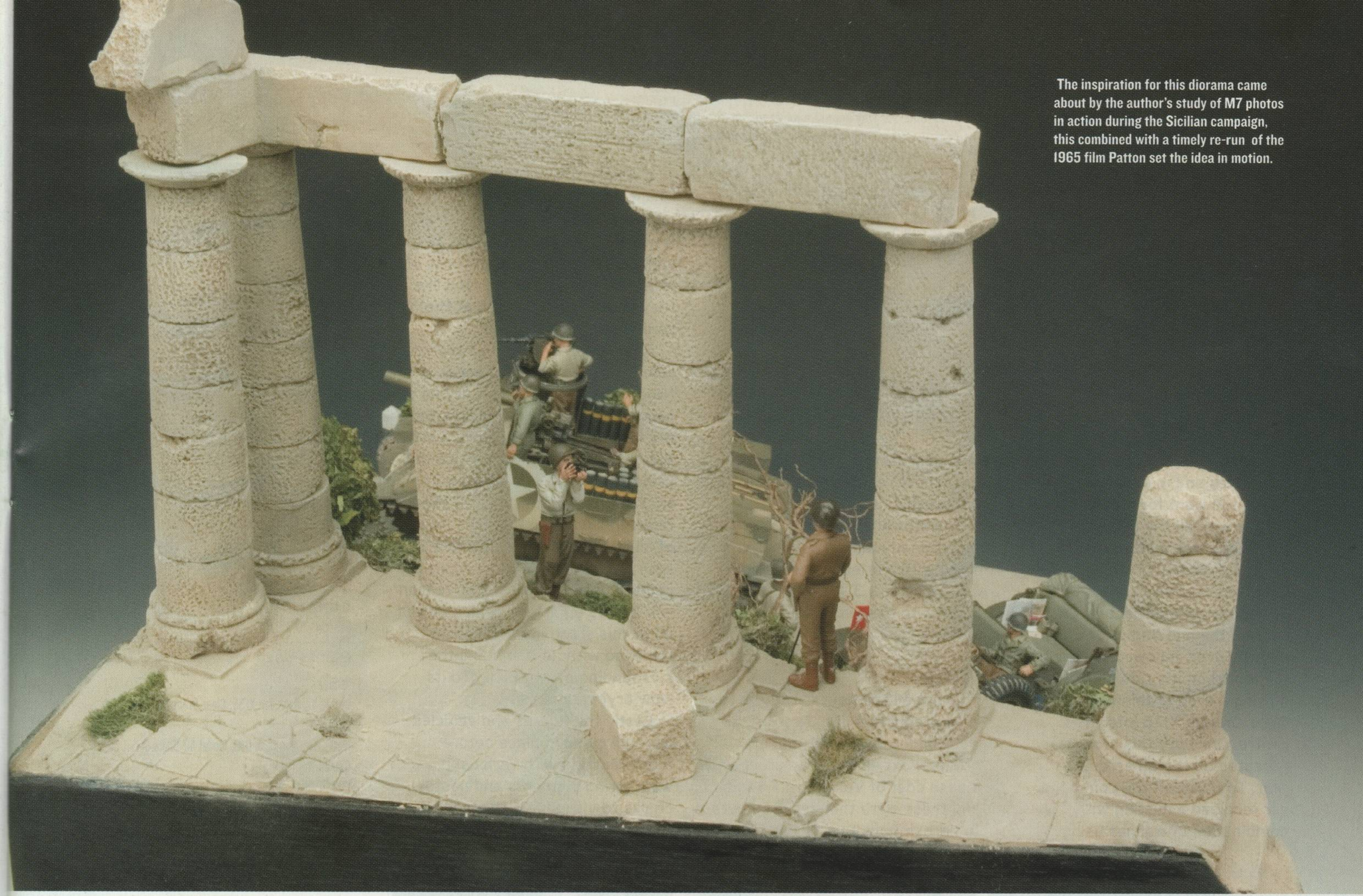
The roadway has now been cut out and Woodland Scenic's rock mould castings have been glued in place. The Jeep is standing in for the unfinished Dodge.



Interior filler has been brushed on and before it had fully hardened thinned PVA glue was painted then sprinkled with chinchilla dust. Grey primer has been sprayed on to check for flaws.



The groundwork has now been painted using mix Tamiya Deck Tan and Buff. The grass and most of greenery has also been added at this stage.



The inspiration for this diorama came about by the author's study of M7 photos in action during the Sicilian campaign, this combined with a timely re-run of the 1965 film Patton set the idea in motion.

SKYBOW COMMAND CAR

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article I had a partially built Skybow Dodge command car lying about, fortunately I had only built up the chassis and not actually started on the body work As the kit is meant to build into as a later version than I needed to be accurate for Patton's ride during the Sicilian campaign.

The Skybow kit if built as Patton's is based on the later WC57, which incorporates a winch in the front bumper along with all of the "pimped up" parts including large air horns a siren, armour plating and a .50 cal machine gun amongst others.

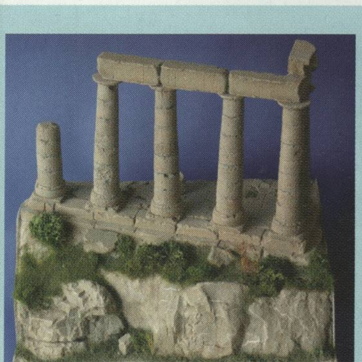
Luckily the option is included in the kit to make the earlier WC56 as used during the invasion of Sicily. The kit was completed as per the instructions with only the pennants being used from the WC57 option. These Skybow kits are so good I really didn't see the need to add any extra detailing whatsoever and this meant that my secondary vehicle would be a quick and simple build.

Now I was ready to paint it I had to keep in mind that this command car would be kept immaculate, the only weathering would be dust from the unpaved roads. No rust or paint chipping would be evident in my opinion.

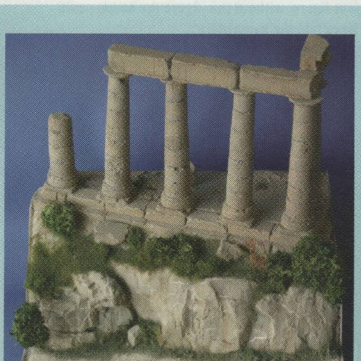
The model was base coloured in Vallejo Model Air Olive Drab (043) sprayed though an Iwata HP-C Plus with the pressure set to 20psi. At this point I would normally add some shading or fading to the base colour, but since I wanted to keep it the paint looking fresh, but dusty I went straight to adding a coat of Johnsons Klear in preparation for decal application.

After studying the photos I had in the old Tanks Illustrated No11 Patton's Tanks book, I copied the decals as closely as possible, when it came to the Allied stars; according to the Steven Zaloga book US Armour and Camouflage and Markings 1917-45 the circle around the star should be painted and enlarged with yellow, if yellow wasn't available red or blue could be substituted.

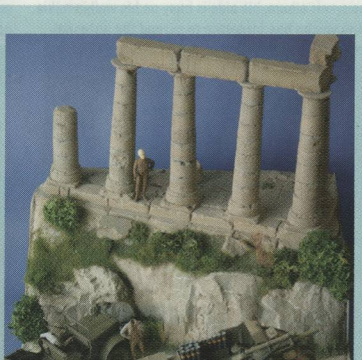
From studying the black and white reference photos the shade of the circle around the star is too ▶



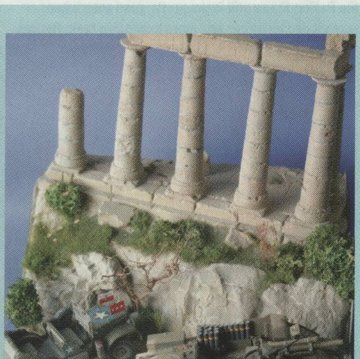
The columns are now securely attached to the base of the ruin with PVA glue, for a strong and durable bond. Note that the rock face has now been detail painted and weathered.



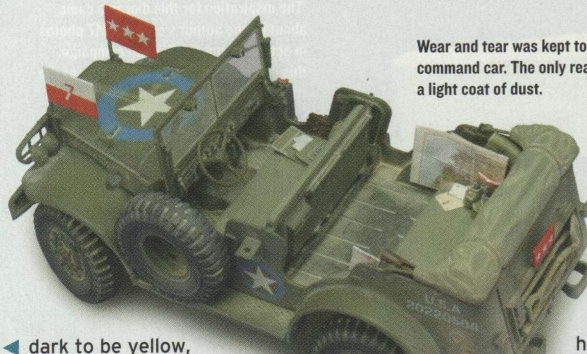
At this point some extra bushes were made up and planted into areas the author thought were dead space, they also help to frame the scene.



Some of the figures have been placed temporarily onto the groundwork to make sure the composition works, their positioning looks natural and helps to tell the story.



The command car is now finished, and the Verlinden roadside markers are in place as is the the dead tree in front of the Dodge, which is simply a piece of root.



Wear and tear was kept to a minimum on the command car. The only real weathering being a light coat of dust.

dark to be yellow, yet too light to be red. In the photo of Patton's WC56 the red of the star pennants is a much darker shade of grey than the circles so I made an educated guess and went for medium blue.

Now with all the decals in place the Dodge was matted down using Vallejo matt varnish, before detail painting was completed. To replicate the reflectors I first painted them in Games Workshop's Mithril Silver, followed by placing the model on it's side and then flowing a drop of thinned Tamiya Clear Orange X-26 into the centre. Once dry this process was repeated on the other side and rear. To finish off the command car received a dusting with combination of washes using heavily thinned Humbrol enamels followed by pastel chalk applied dry using a thin brush and the excess removed with a large flat brush.

The stowage was kept to a selection of maps and map cases along with a briefcase and the usual clutter a 3 star general takes with him whilst touring the battlefield.

FIGURES

To paint all the figures I set up a little production line. First off, all were undercoated in Holts grey car primer, next all the heads received a base coat of Vallejo Iraqi Sand and these were then left 24 hours to harden fully. During this time I set about painting the bodies, which were brush painted using Vallejo Model Color acrylics. The tones were varied slightly so all the uniforms had different amounts of wear and tear and didn't look like they had all been painted at the same time.

Both heads and bodies received colour washes using Winsor & Newton Griffin Alkyd fast drying oil paints and once dry the faces were dry brushed using more oils. Lastly the detail painting was carried out using various Vallejo colours. The trickiest part of finishing off the faces was painting the eyes. First of all I paint the whites using a 5 zero brush. Once dry the pupils are painted using oil paints, the reason is if I make a mistake, which I often do at this stage it can be easily removed without damaging the surrounding paint, thanks to its slow drying time.

Lastly the figures and vehicles were all glued in place before a final dusting with various weathering pigments and pastel chalks to visually tie them all to the dusty arid groundwork. ■

Modelspec

Ordnance Models M7 And Skybow WC56 Dodge Command Car

Sets used

Great North Roads Roman Ruin GNR037
Woodland Scenics rock face moulds
Just Bases MDF baseboard
Woodland Scenics Poly-Fibre Green FP178

Figures used

Warriors
American Soldier 1942-45 WA35366
American Tank Officer WA35361
US officer with Walkie Talkie WA35379
WWII Combat Cameraman WA 35559
Hornet US Head set HUH 1
Warriors Head set WA35238
Verlinden
Willy's Jeep Crew 1525
Tamiya
Generals set

Paints used

Tamiya
Buff XF57, Deck Tan XF55, Clear Orange X-26
Vallejo
Model Air Olive Drab 043, Model Air Black Grey 056
Games Workshop
Mithril Silver

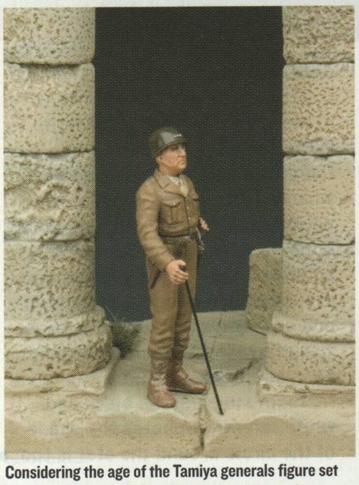
Reference

Tanks Illustrated No.11, Patton's Tanks OOP
Tanks Illustrated No.20 Allied Tanks Italy, World War II OOP
Osprey Vanguard US Armor and Camouflage and Markings 1917-45 OOP
Concord Publications, US Armoured Artillery in WWII 7044 (ISBN 962-361-688-0)

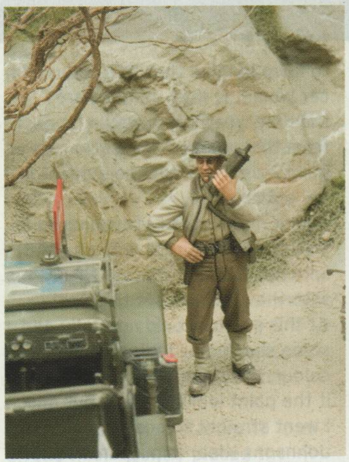
Available from

Great North Roads - see contact page
Woodland Scenics - Model railway shops
Just Bases -see contact page
Warrior - LSA Models
Verlinden - www.historex.com
Tamiya - all good model shops
Vallejo - www.creativemodels.co.uk
Games Workshop

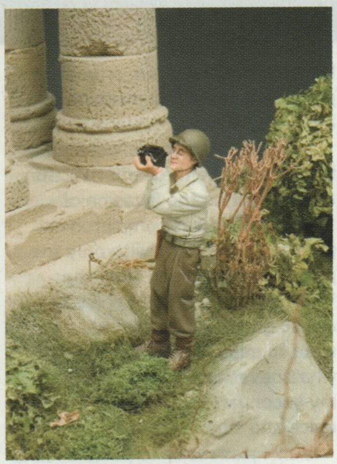
Rating - *N/A*



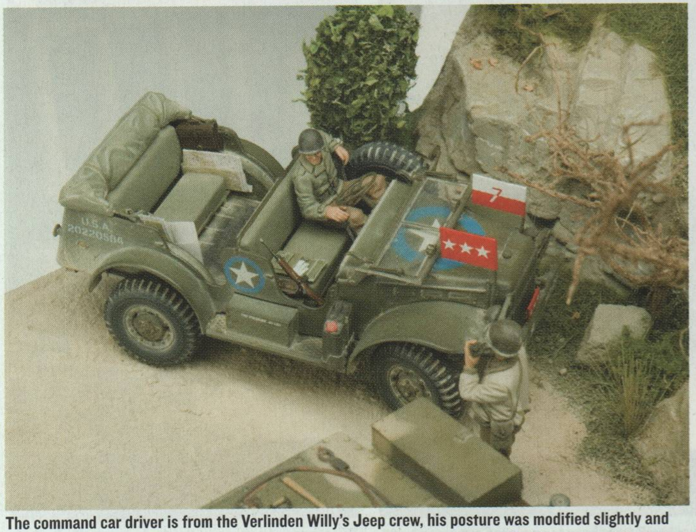
Considering the age of the Tamiya generals figure set the Patton figure still looks pretty good even when surrounded by newer and more expensive resin figures.



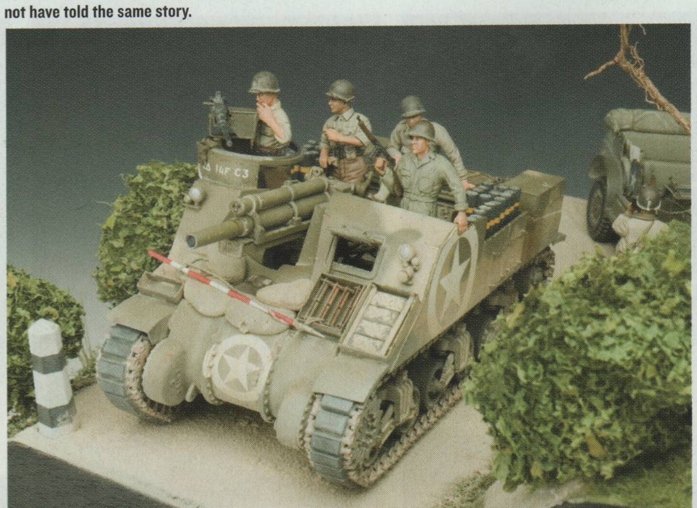
While Patton is being captured on celluloid for his souvenir album, his aide is busy on his walkie talkie. And yes he has forgotten to extend the antenna!



Warrior's WWII Combat Cameraman was the perfect figure, without this figure the scene could not have told the same story.

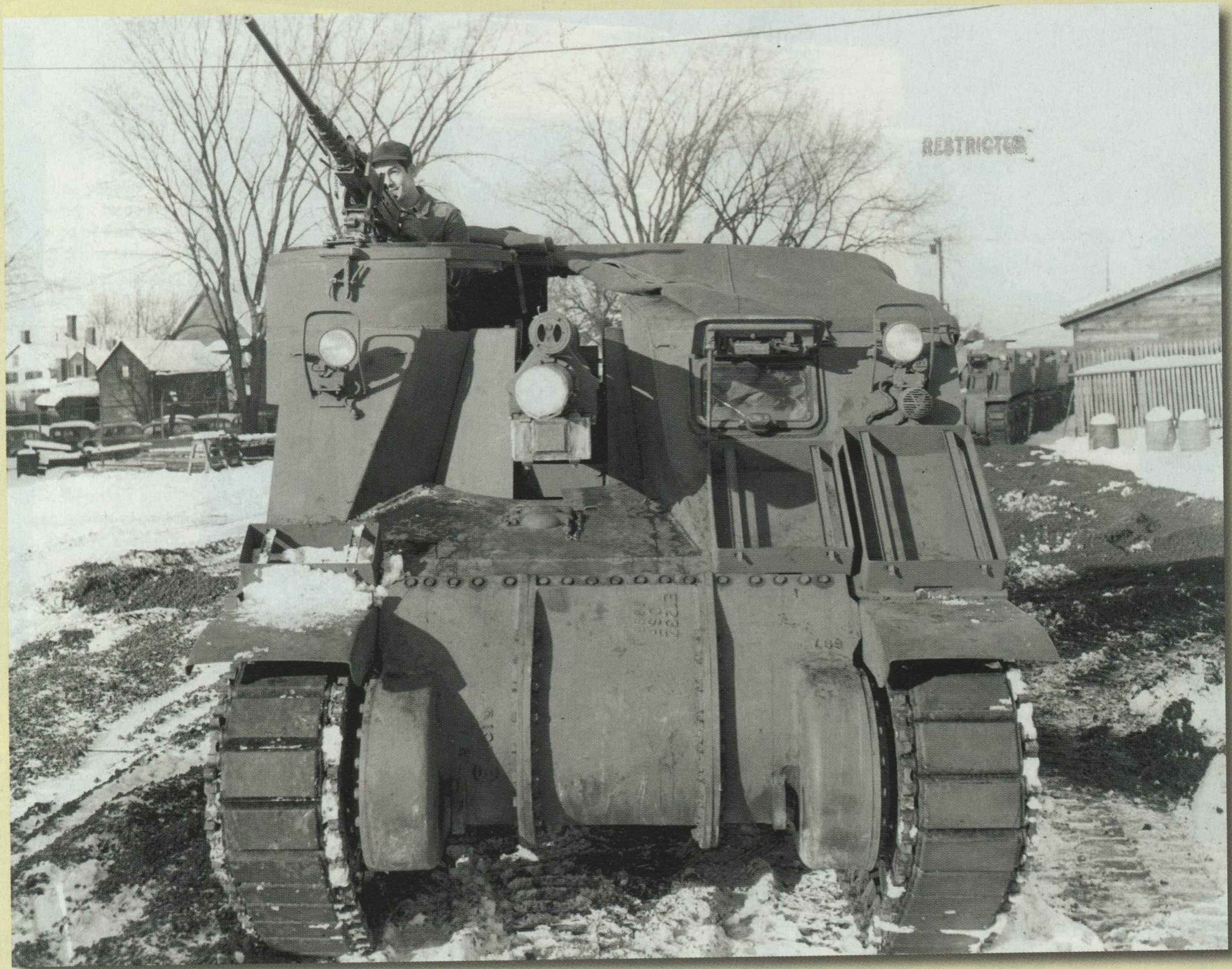


The command car driver is from the Verlinden Willy's Jeep crew, his posture was modified slightly and his head substituted for a more youthful looking item from the Hornet range. Both Hornet and Verlinden are available from Historex Agents in the UK.



If the M7 hadn't been built out of the box for the review in issue 3, the author would have replaced the kit's solid resin headlight's lenses for clear items from the Greif range available from www.pdi-model-supplies.com

U.S.A.



▲ An early M7, of particular interest here is the driver's windshield with built in wiper as well as the squared off headlight guards. Photo courtesy of the US Army Tank Automotive Command.

M7 PRIEST IN DETAIL

With the help of **David Doyle,** we conclude our feature on the M7 with a selection of essential detailing shots.

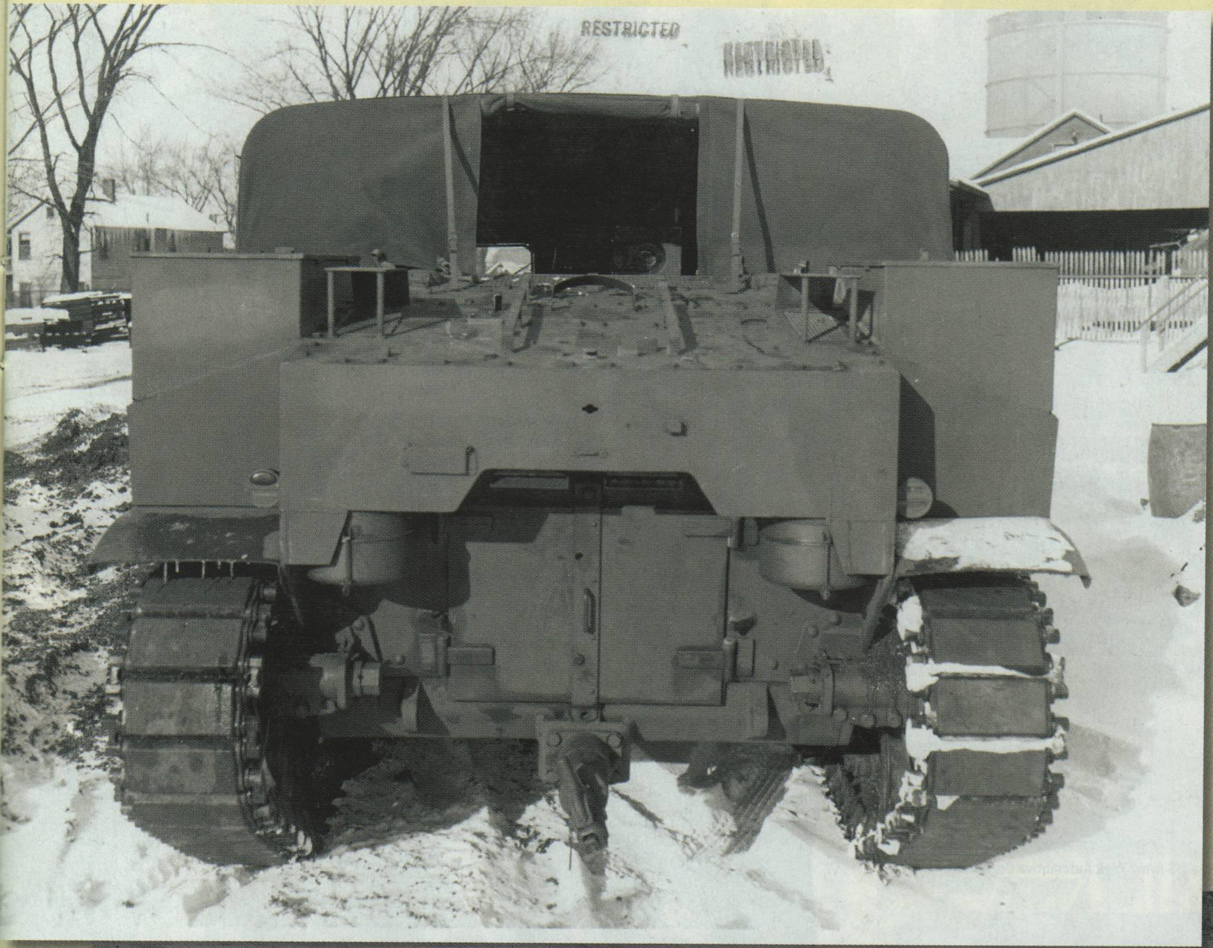
The M7 Priest family of vehicles was designed to provide armoured units with a means of highly mobile organic artillery support. From the outset, the vehicles were based on M3 medium tank components, although the later M7B1 production used M4 Sherman components. The moniker "Priest" was an obvious allusion to the pulpit-like appearance of the anti-aircraft machine gun ring and mount on the right front of the vehicle's fighting compartment.

American Locomotive Company began production of these vehicles in April of 1942, and continued through August 1943, the firm turned out 2814 of these self-propelled guns. During the course of ALCO production there were at least three variations in the ammunition stowage, with differing numbers of rounds stowed, as well as placement..

Experience in battle showed that while the design was sound, there was nevertheless room for improvement, and in the period March through October 1944, American Locomotive (ALCO) built a further 500 vehicles, and Federal Machine and Welder Company built 176. The most readily visible difference between the early and late models was the addition of fold down armor along the sides and rear of the fighting compartment.

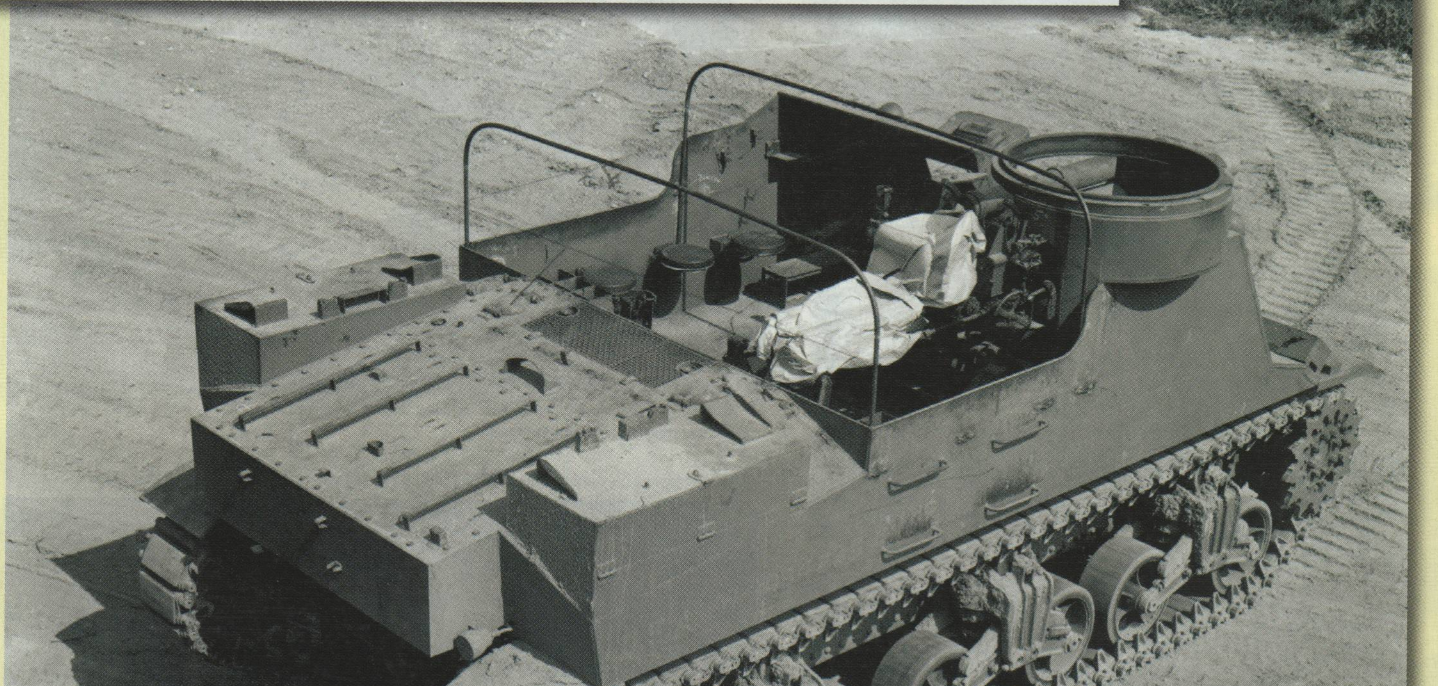
Meanwhile, Pressed Steel Car Company was tasked with building 826 M7B1 self-propelled guns. The M7B1 was very similar to the late M7s, but were based on components of the then U.S. Army standard M4A3 medium tank's components. Because of this, the U.S. Army's Standard Nomenclature List (SNL) classifies the M7B1 as G-199 vehicles, while the M7 was considered a G-128 vehicle.

To increase the elevation of the howitzer for better use in the rugged terrain of Korea, during the 1950s many vehicles were converted to the M7B2 configuration. This was done by raising the gun mount, with an accompanying change in the height of the antiaircraft machine gun ring. All this resulted in the vehicle having a very different frontal appearance when compared to unmodified vehicles. The M7 was used on all major fronts, and continued to serve even after the cease-fire in Korea. ■

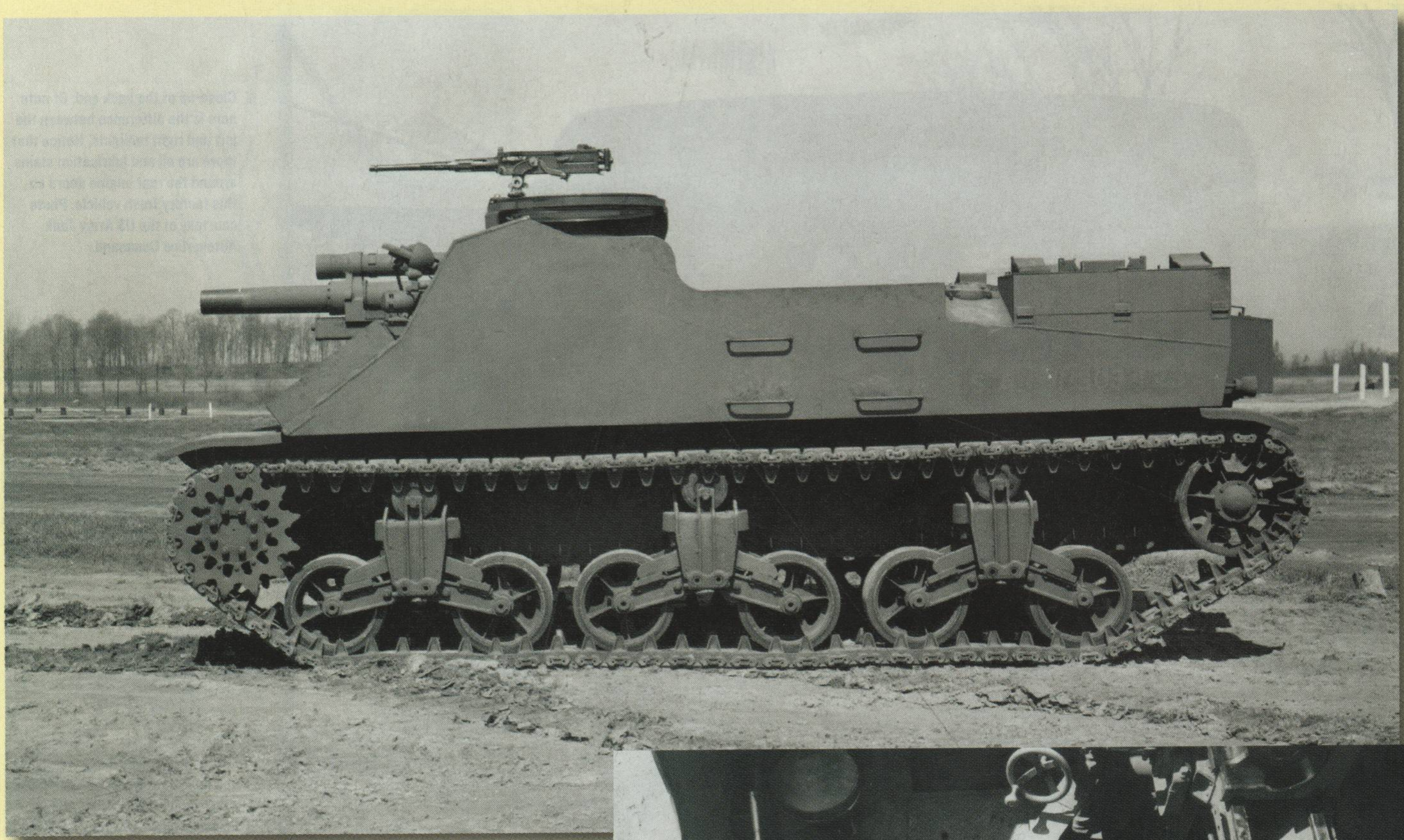


Close-up of the back end. Of note here is the difference between the left and right taillights. Notice that there are oil and lubrication stains around the rear engine doors on this factory fresh vehicle. Photo courtesy of the US Army Tank Automotive Command.

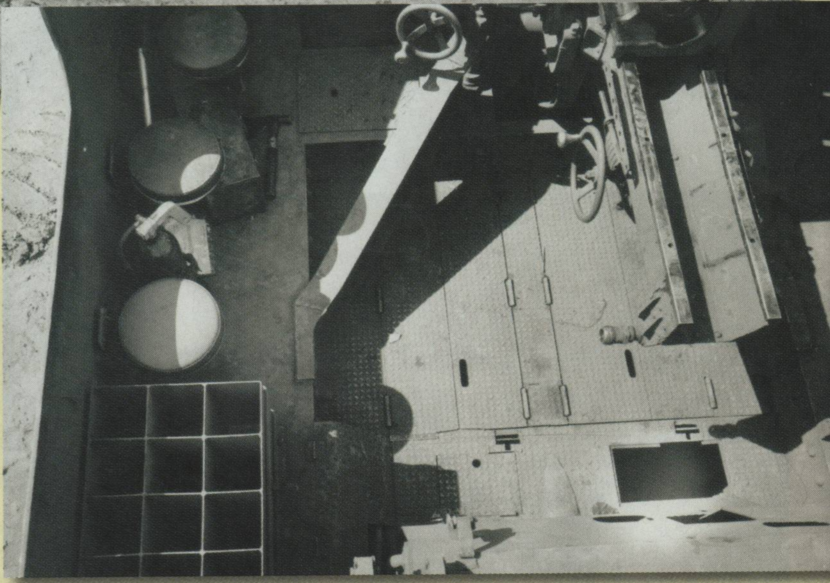
Lots of fittings on the rear deck and sponson lockers missing from the Ordnance Models kit. Photo courtesy of the US Army Tank Automotive Command.



References - THE M7 PRIEST

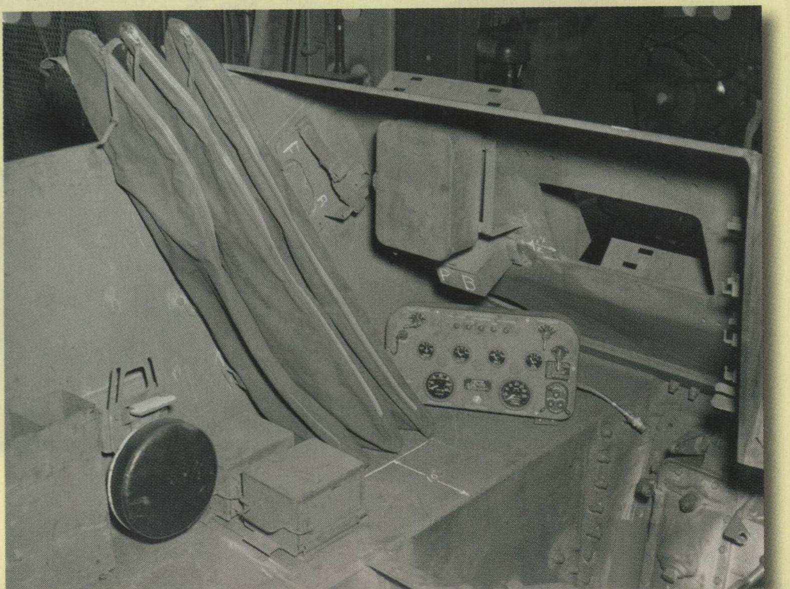


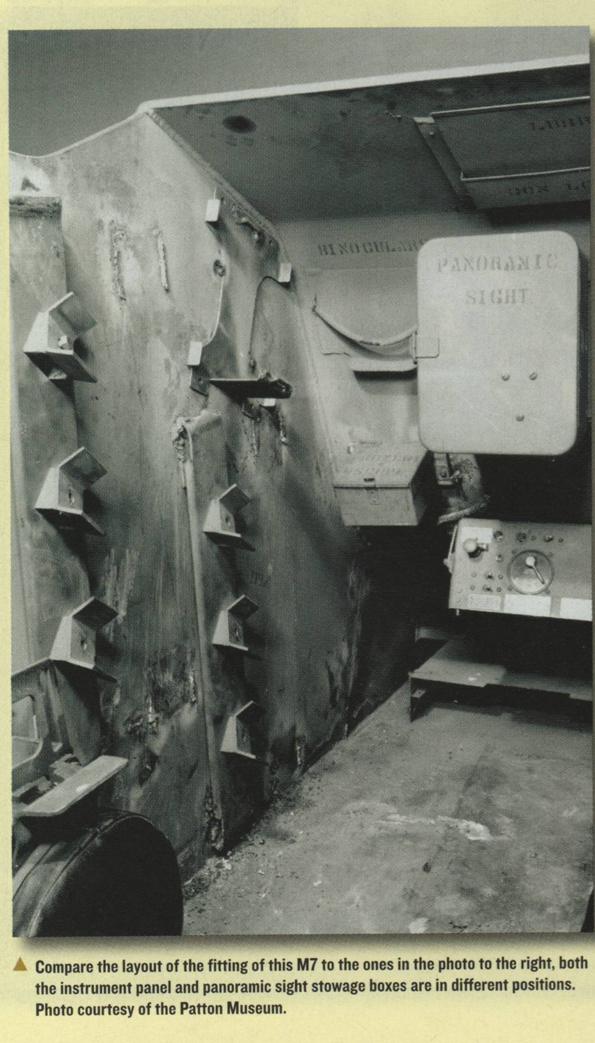
▲ **Left hand profile. Photo courtesy of the US Army Tank Automotive Command.**



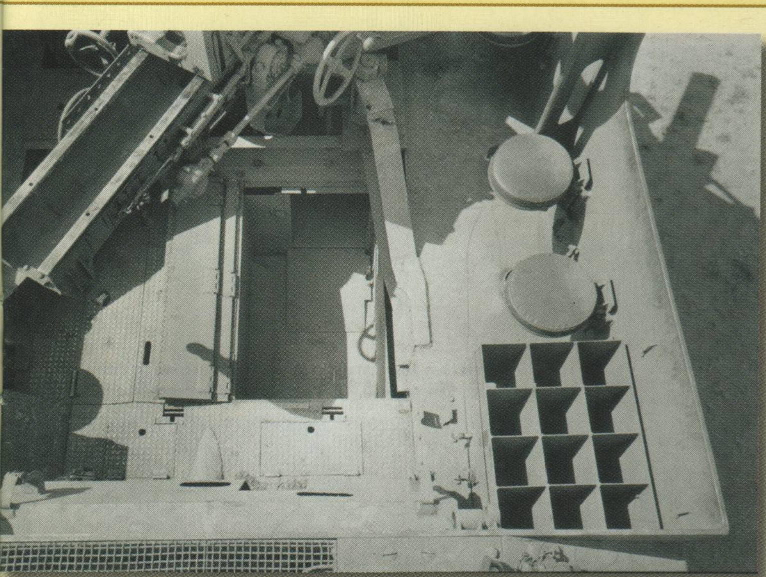
▲ **Left hand fighting compartment floor including the fold down crew seats and fire extinguisher. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.**

▼ **The canvas bags contain three of the crews MI Garand rifles. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.**

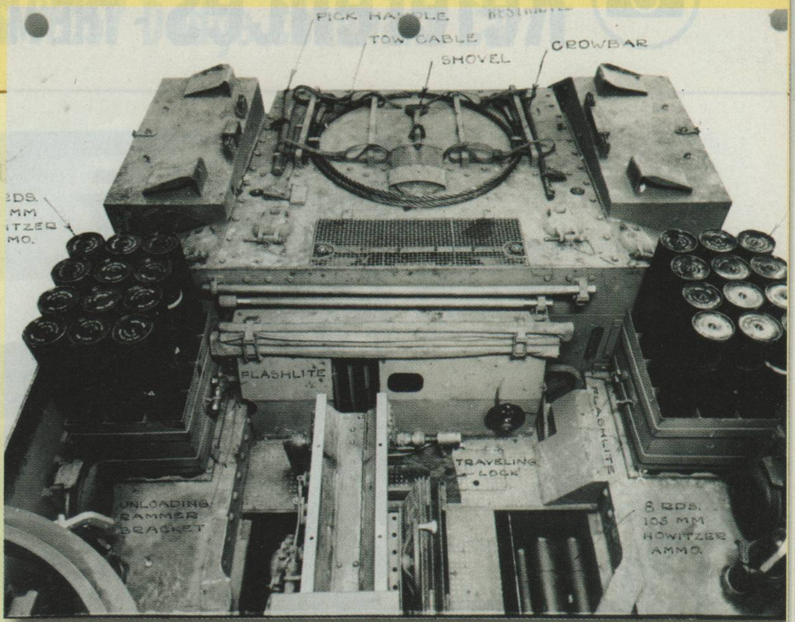




▲ **Compare the layout of the fitting of this M7 to the ones in the photo to the right, both the instrument panel and panoramic sight stowage boxes are in different positions. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.**



▲ More ammunition is stored under the fighting compartment flooring. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.


PICK HANDLE
TOW CABLE
SHOVEL
CROWBAR
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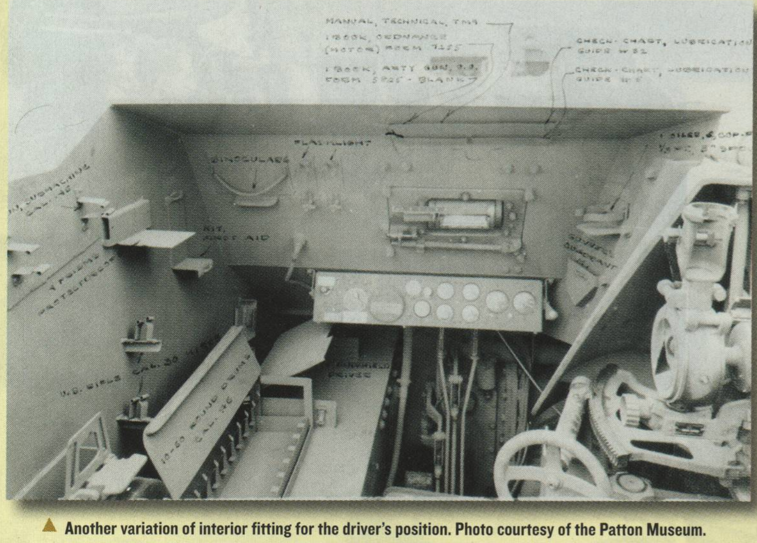
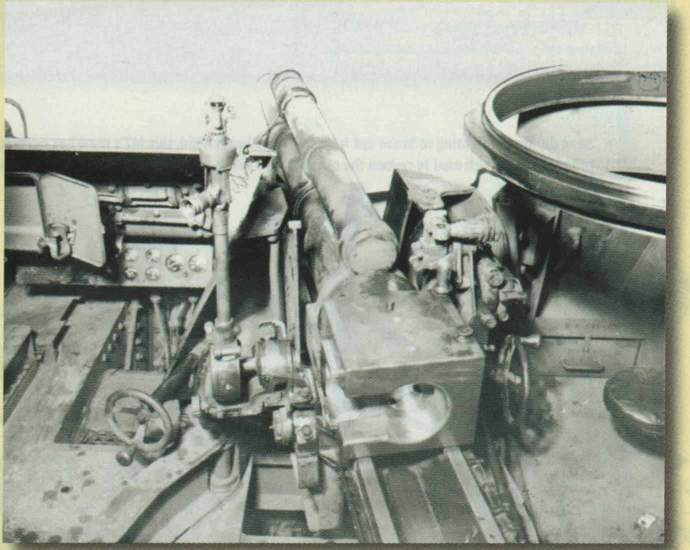
HOWITZER
AMMO.
FLASHLITE
FLASHLITE
TRAVELING LOCK
UNLOADING RAMMER BRACKET
8 RDS. 105 MM HOWITZER AMMO.

▲ Tech manual photo showing the full equipment and ammunition stowage layout. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.

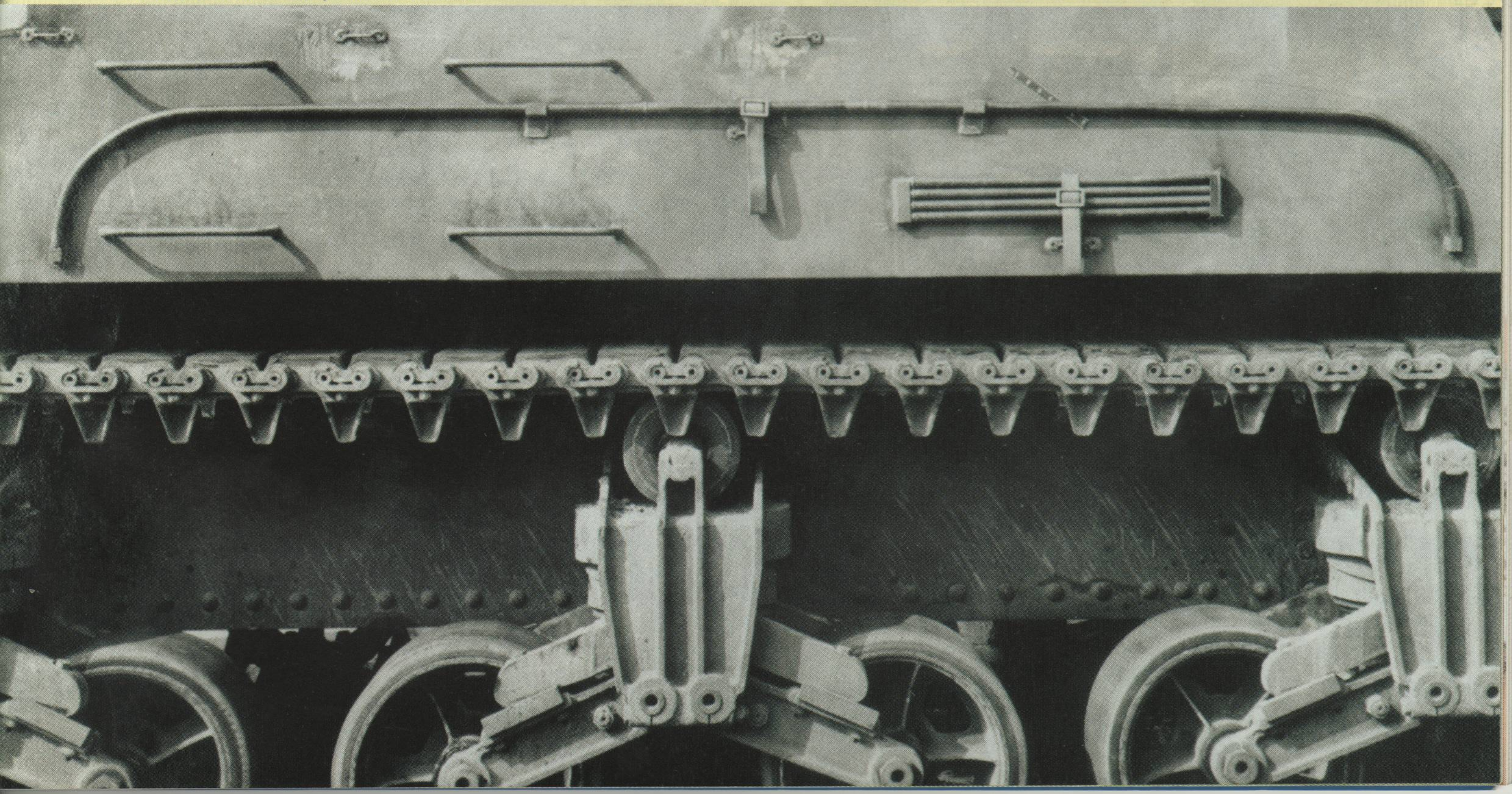

MANUAL, TECHNICAL, TM9
1 BOOK, ORDNANCE (MOTOR) FORM 7255
1 BOOK, ARTY GUN, FORM 5825 - BLANK
CHECK-CHART, LUBRICATION GUIDE W32
CHECK-CHART, LUBRICATION GUIDE
BINOCULARS
FLASHLIGHT
KIT, FIRST AID
U.S. RIFLE CAL.30
CAL.30

▲ Another variation of interior fitting for the driver's position. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.

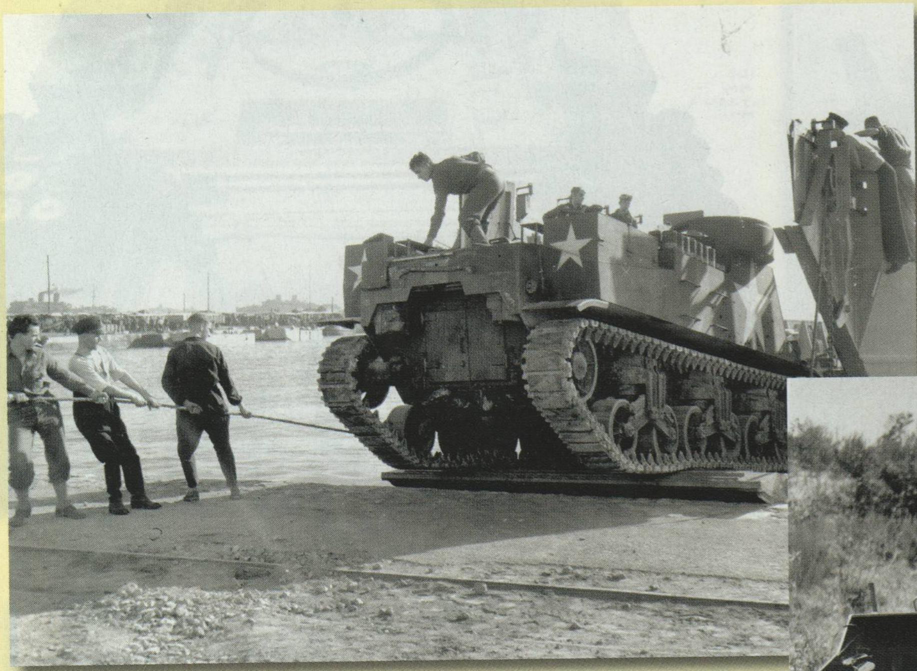


▲ Breech end of the 105mm Howitzer, note the highly polished finish of the actual breech opening. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.

▼ The foul weather cover support frames are stowed on the vehicle sides and retained by canvas straps and metal buckles. Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.

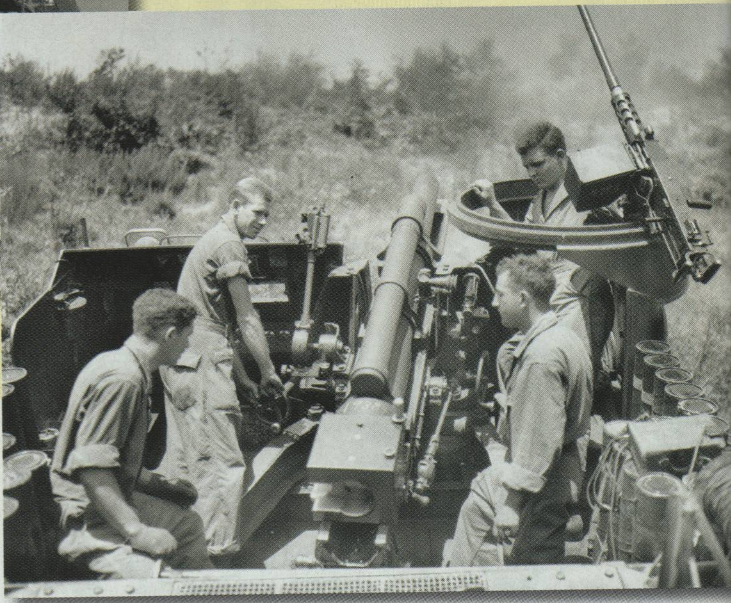


References - THE M7 PRIEST

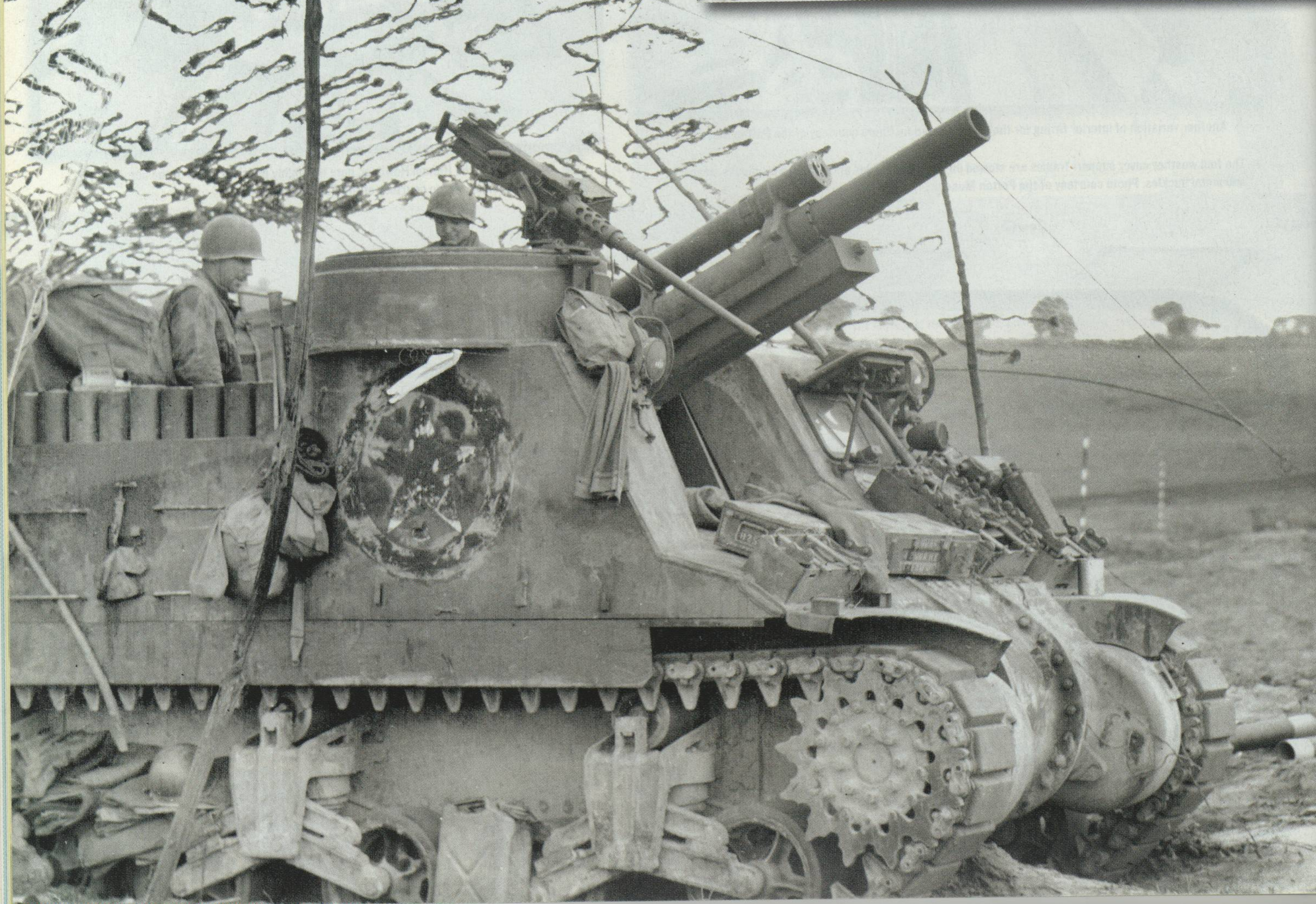


Of interest in this shot of an early M7 maneuvouring on the ramp of an LCT is the placement of the Allied stars, notable is the size of the one on the hull side.

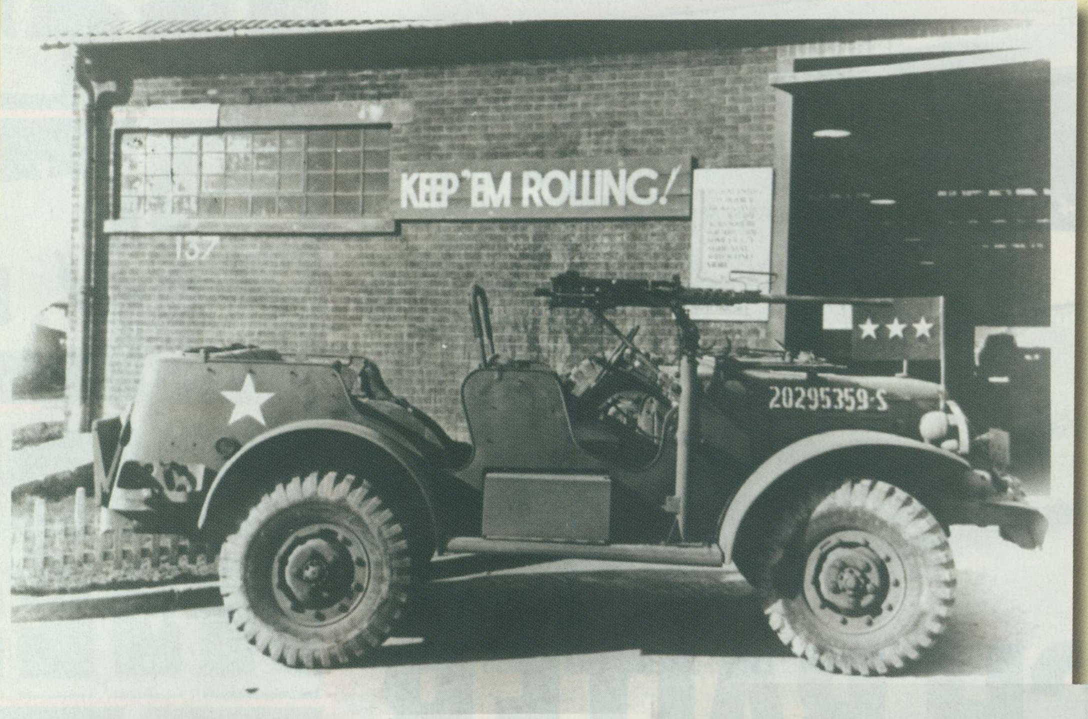
The gun on this M7 has been captured at the moment of full recoil in this shot, this veteren crew obviously feel no need to shield their ears either!



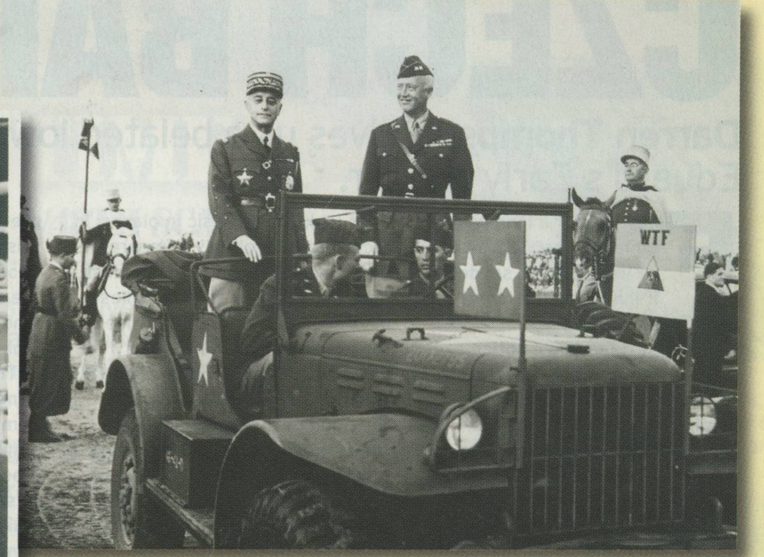
Seen during the fighting to break out from the Anzio beachhead, this M7's crew has covered the prominent star with mud to reduce the chances of it being used as an aiming mark by the enemy.



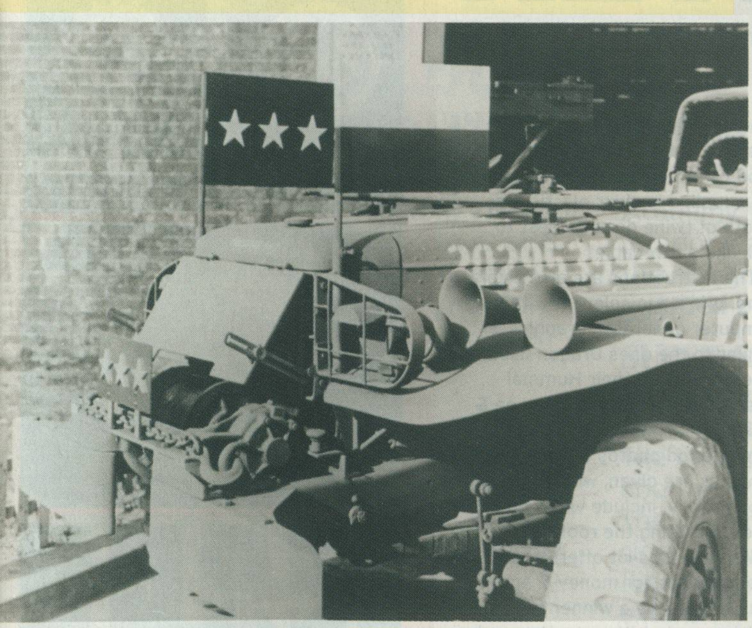
References - WC56 & WC57 Dodge Command Car



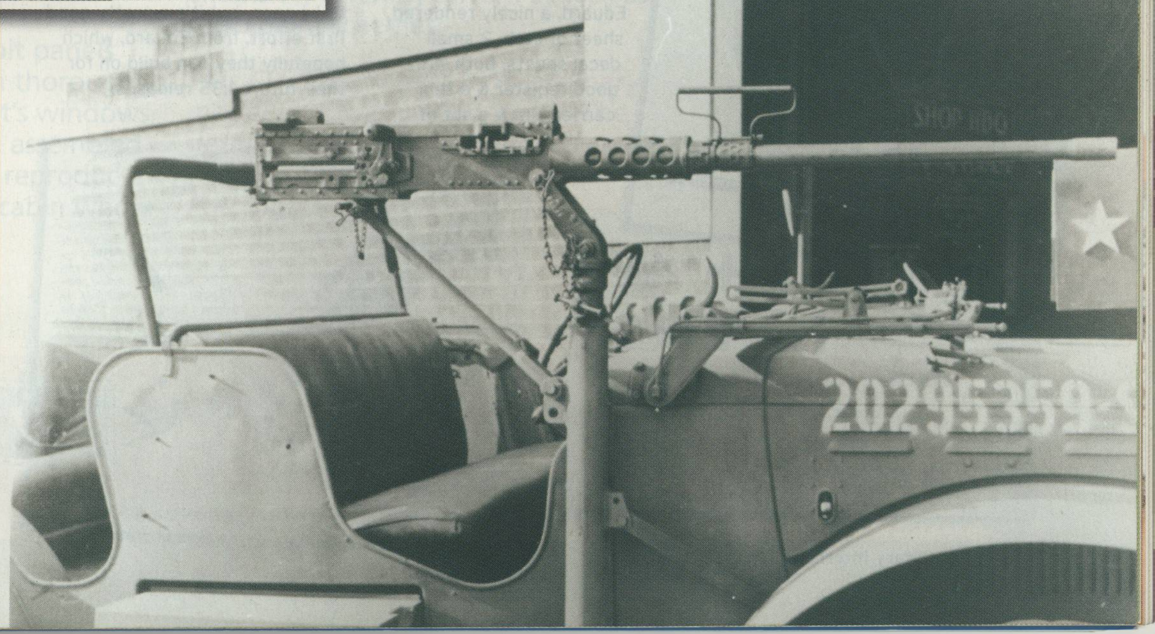
Here we can see the jerrycan rack has had to be moved from behind the front wing to the rear to make way for the .50 cal machine gun.
Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.



This WC-56 is missing Patton's usual modifications and also note the crudeness of the stars on the pennant. (National Archive)

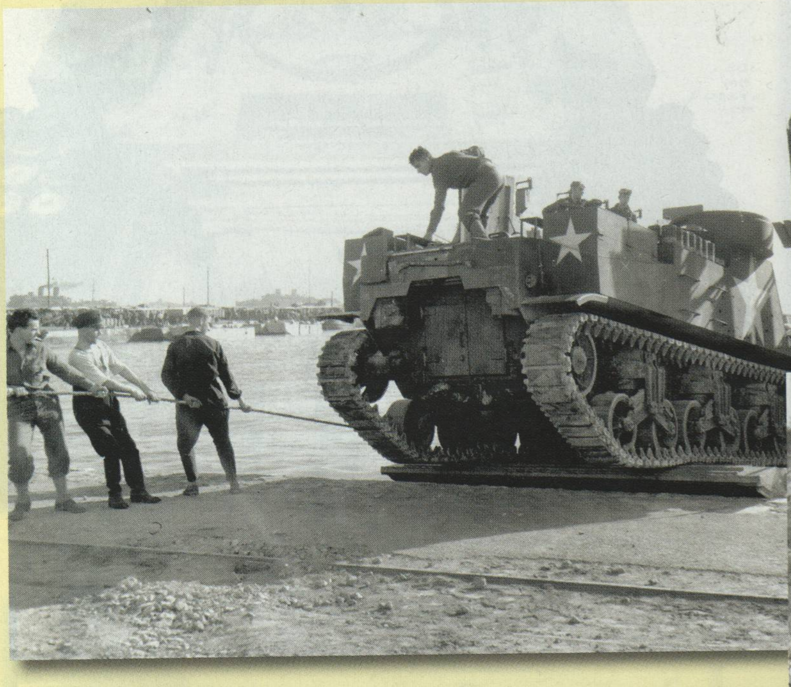


This WC-57 displays some of the personal modifications ordered by Patton including the air horns, adjustable armour plate in front of the radiator and a full set of pennants.
Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.



Detail shot of the .50 and mount as fitted to general Patton's command car used in Northwest Europe.
Photo courtesy of the Patton Museum.

References - THE M7 PRIEST



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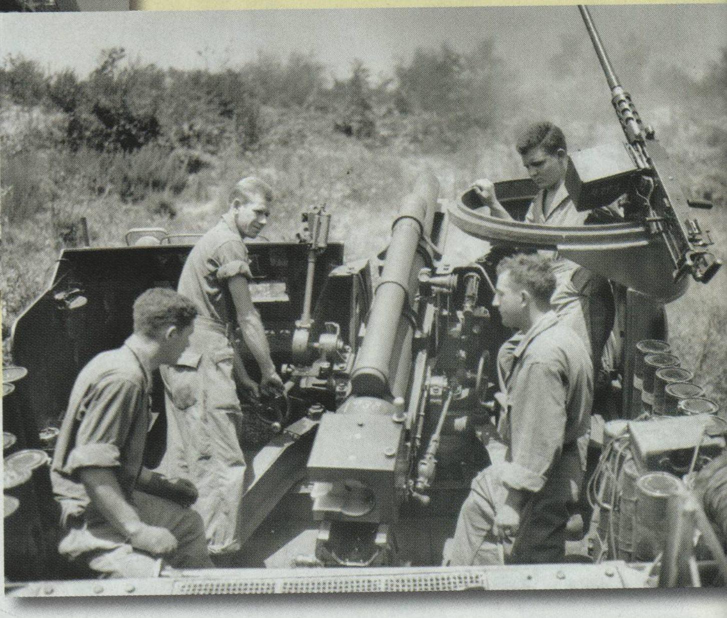

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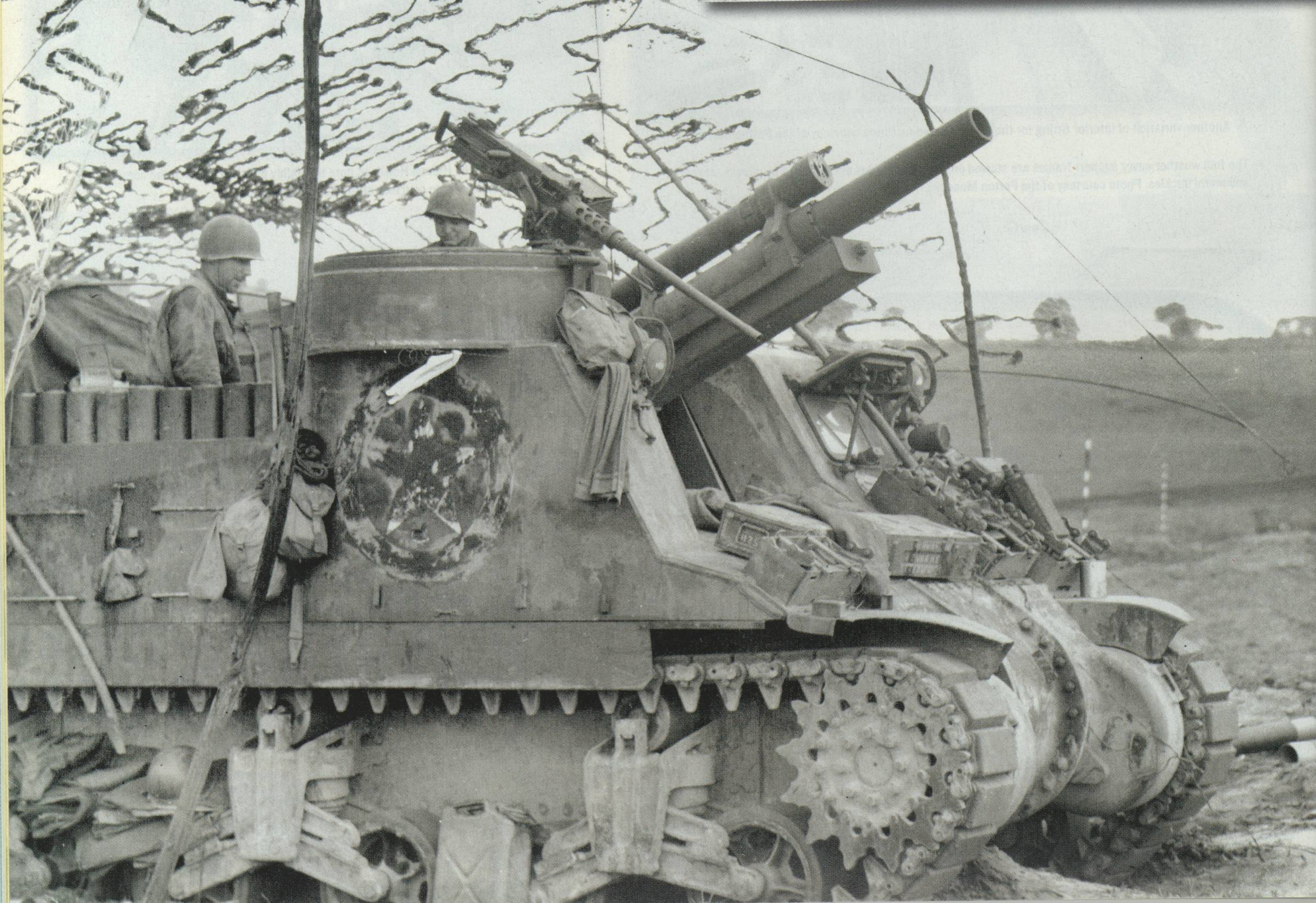

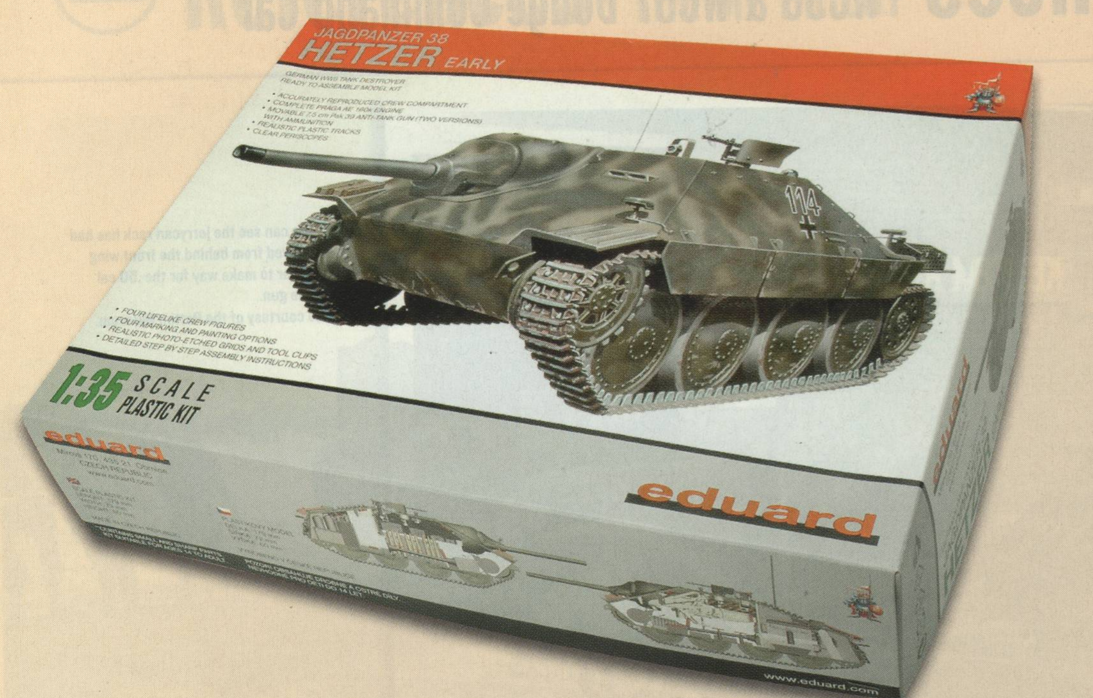
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CZECH BAITER

Darren Thompson gives us a belated low down on Eduard's Early Hetzer.

Finally, after a long wait, Eduard's first 1:35 scale AFV kit is here, so, does it live up to the hype? Let's find out.

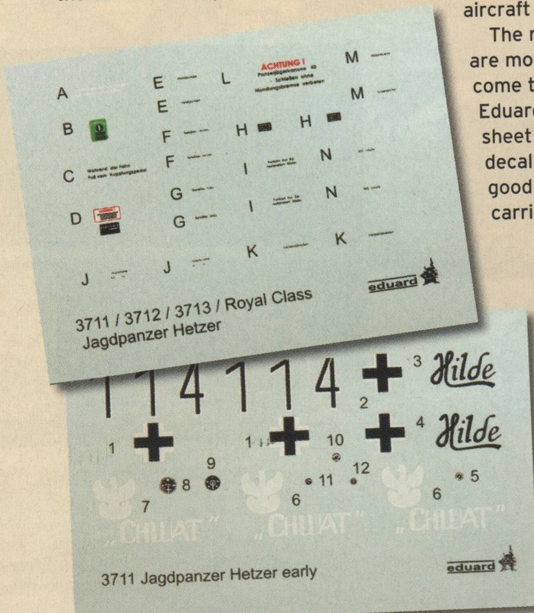
The first thing you'll notice is the size of the box, about the same as one you get with Tamiya's Famo it's enormous, particularly when you consider the Hetzer's diminutive size.

The kit boasts a full interior, including engine compartment & while the parts were cleanly moulded in a beige colour plastic, the detail on the parts does look a little basic in places; in fact, I would probably compare the mouldings to those found in most Italeri kits, rather than the likes of Dragon or Tamiya. The wheels for example, look a little 'flat', lacking the subtle contours of the real thing & also the rim around the edge of the wheel. Likewise, the tracks, which are of the link & length variety, seem very square & 2-dimensional. My first impressions were certainly a little disappointing, especially as Eduard have built themselves a reputation for producing some rather fine aircraft kits.

The rest of the contents are more like what we've come to expect from Eduard, a nicely rendered sheet of etch, 2 small decal sheets, both with good register & a thin carrier film & a set of pre-cut wheel masks. On top of this, you get a set of 4 reasonably good crew figures, the periscopes are supplied in clear plastic & a length of twine does its best to look like a tow cable!

The instructions are also nicely done, printed in colour & with computer generated graphics, similar to the ones Dragon used, albeit briefly, in their Hummel kits. A basic history is given on & inside, the front cover, including some period photos & 2 full colour schemes are given, which, rather thoughtfully, include views of all 5 sides, including the roof.

Whether this kit offers good enough value for money & accuracy to become a winner remains to be seen, but it's a pretty good first effort, from Eduard, which hopefully they can build on for their future 1:35 releases. ■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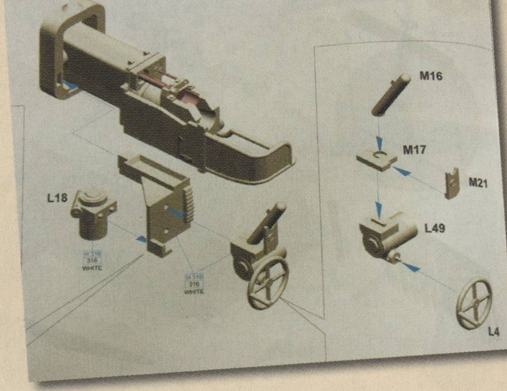
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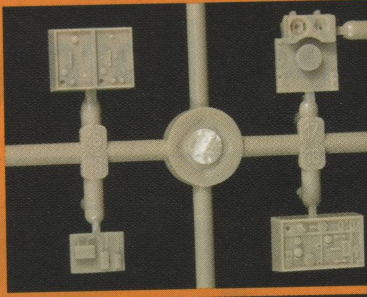

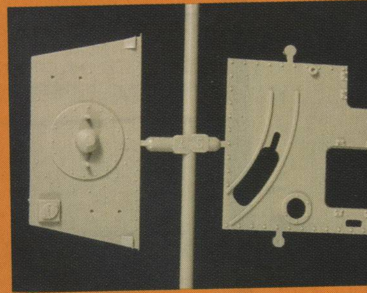

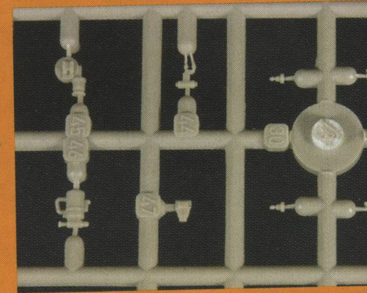

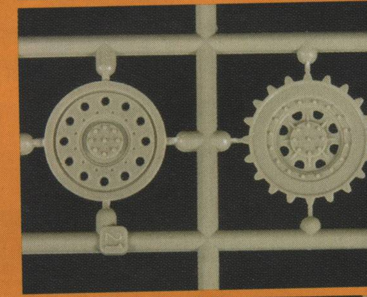

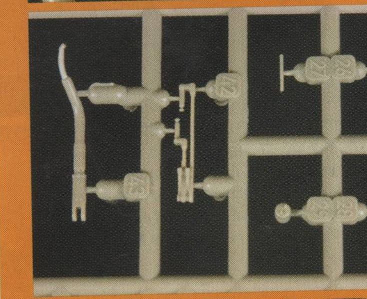

ACADEMY
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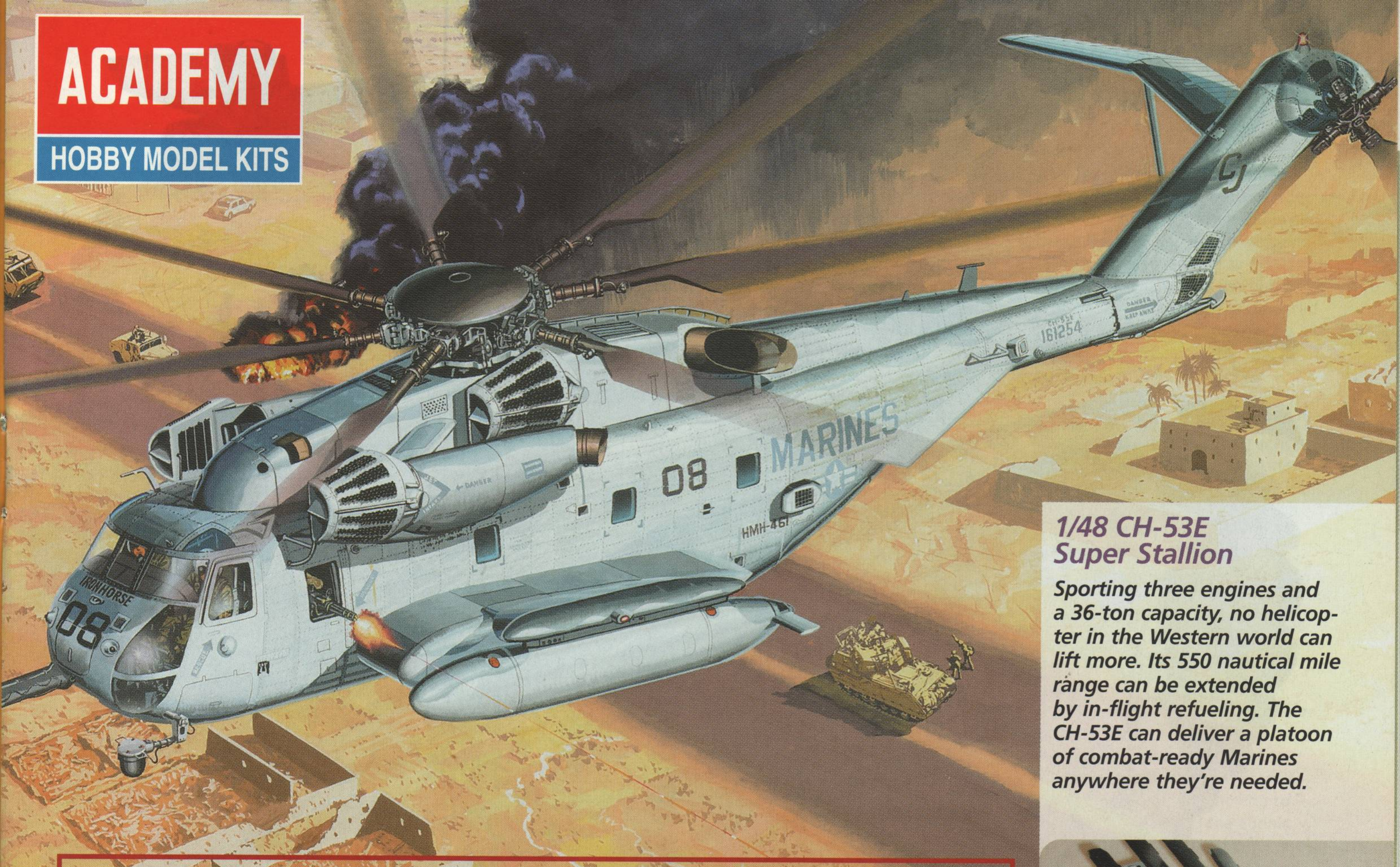


1/48 CH-53E Super Stallion

Sporting three engines and a 36-ton capacity, no helicopter in the Western world can lift more. Its 550 nautical mile range can be extended by in-flight refueling. The CH-53E can deliver a platoon of combat-ready Marines anywhere they're needed.

FOR THE FIRST TIME...

THE SUPER-SIZED, SUPER STALLION IN 1/48TH SCALE

Make no mistake, this Academy kit is not a rehashed, two engine CH-53A, D or G. This is the first time the current, three engine, 7-bladed, heavy lifter, now on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, has been kitted in impressive 1/48 scale.

GLORIOUS DETAIL

A full 24" from the tip of its main rotor blades to the tip of its tail, size alone would make it an awesome kit. But it's the attention to the minute details that makes it truly impressive.

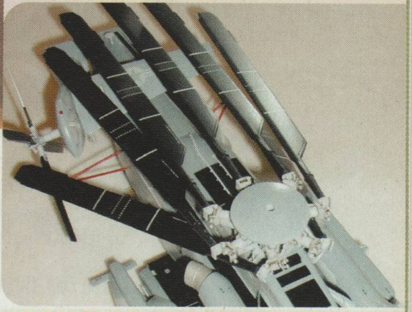
A SECOND SKIN

Fidelity begins with the cockpit panels where instruments have been thoroughly and finely engraved. The pilot's windows, cabin and cargo doors can be assembled open or closed. Breathtaking reproduction continues deep into the cabin where Academy's exclusive "second skin" interior walls highlight every nuance… the ribs, the padding, the troop seats, all guarded by two .50 caliber machine guns.

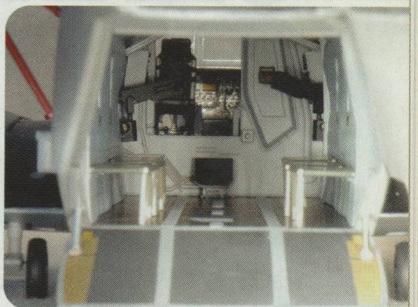
SUPER-SIZED AUTHENTICITY

The main rotor grips, lag dampers and swash plate are moulded to perfection. The tail is positionable, build it folded and the interior view is magnificent. The main rotor blades can be assembled closed for on-deck storage, or spread for flight. As you'd expect, the decal sheet is extensive, offering current as well as retro paint schemes.

This CH-53E (12209) is no ordinary model in size or authenticity. The details have been reproduced with Academy's proven Passion for Precision



Built with blades folded, details include main rotor with knuckles, aerodynamic fairing, and folded tail with rotor head. Gust supports and anti-skid decals are visible.



Folded tail reveals cabin's structural ribs, lights, heater, troop seats, .50 caliber guns, cargo winch, even sound reduction padding. Visible in the cockpit: FLIR handle, armoured pilot seats and exquisitely engraved instrument panel.

TOYWAY

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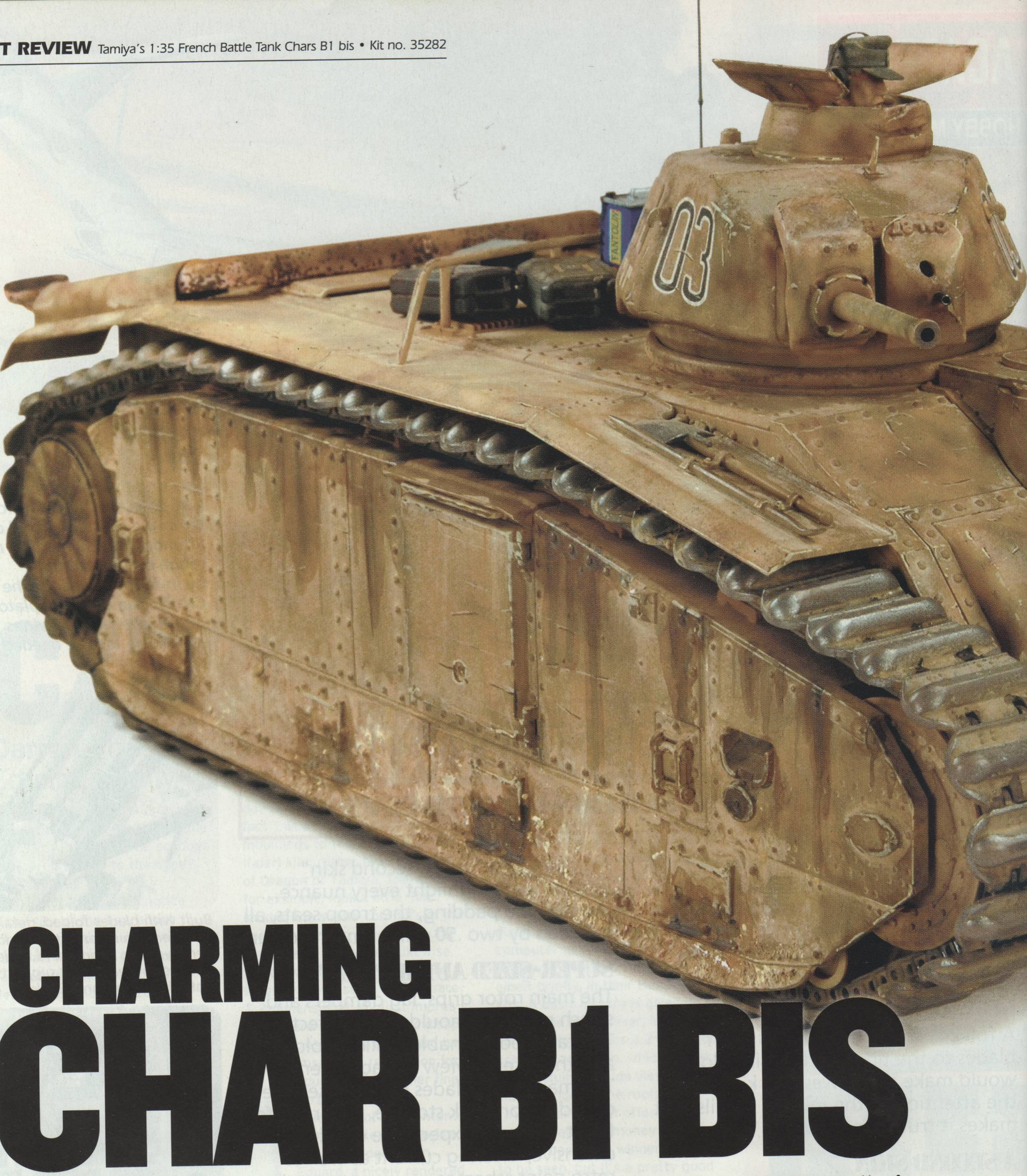


CHARMING CHAR B1 BIS

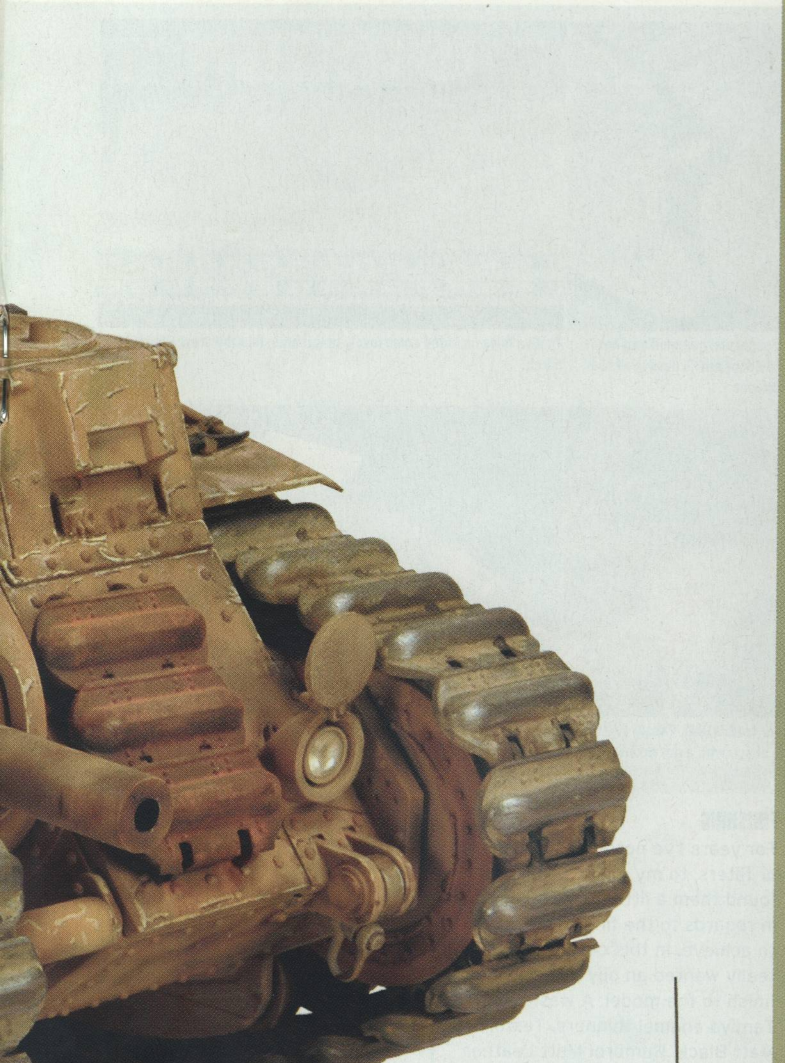
Sam Dwyer builds Tamiya's latest AFV and tells us how good it really is, whilst finishing it as a captured example used by the Germans in Normandy.

The Char B1 bis was an upgraded variant of the Char 1 with thicker armour at 60mm maximum (55 mm at the sides) and an APX4 turret with a longer-barreled (L/32) 47 mm SA 35 gun, to give the tank a real anti-tank capacity. From 8 April 1937 until June 1940 369 units were delivered out of a total order for 1144. Before the war manufacture was slow: only 129 had been delivered on 1 September 1939. The monthly delivery was still not more than fifteen in December; it peaked in March 1940 with 45.

The Char B1 bis had a top speed of 25 km/h provided by a 307 horse power petrol engine. Its weight was about 31.5 metric tons. The operational range was about 180 km: not much different from other tanks of the period. Although if the tank wanted to travel at a decent (but for its engine inefficient) road speed of 20 km/h, it would deplete its three fuel tanks with a total capacity of 400 litres within six hours.

Like most French tanks of the period the Char B had a small one-man turret. This is typically seen as one of their greatest flaws. The commander not only had to command the tank, but also to aim and load the gun. If he was a platoon leader or higher, he had to command the other tanks of his unit as well. This is in contrast with the contemporary German, British and Soviet policy to use two or three-man turret crews, in which these duties were divided amongst several men

After the Battle of France in 1940, 161 Char B1's were captured by the Germans. These were later pressed into service as second line and training vehicles under the name of Panzerkampfwagen B-2 740 (f). Sixty became platforms for flamethrowers. Sixteen were converted into 105 mm self propelled artillery.



SO, TO THE MODEL

There have been rumors of the impending release of Tamiya's Char B1 for a long time on Internet chatrooms and forums. Well, its here, and it's totally worth the wait. Tamiya have excelled themselves with this kit, the first of this subject, in injection plastic.

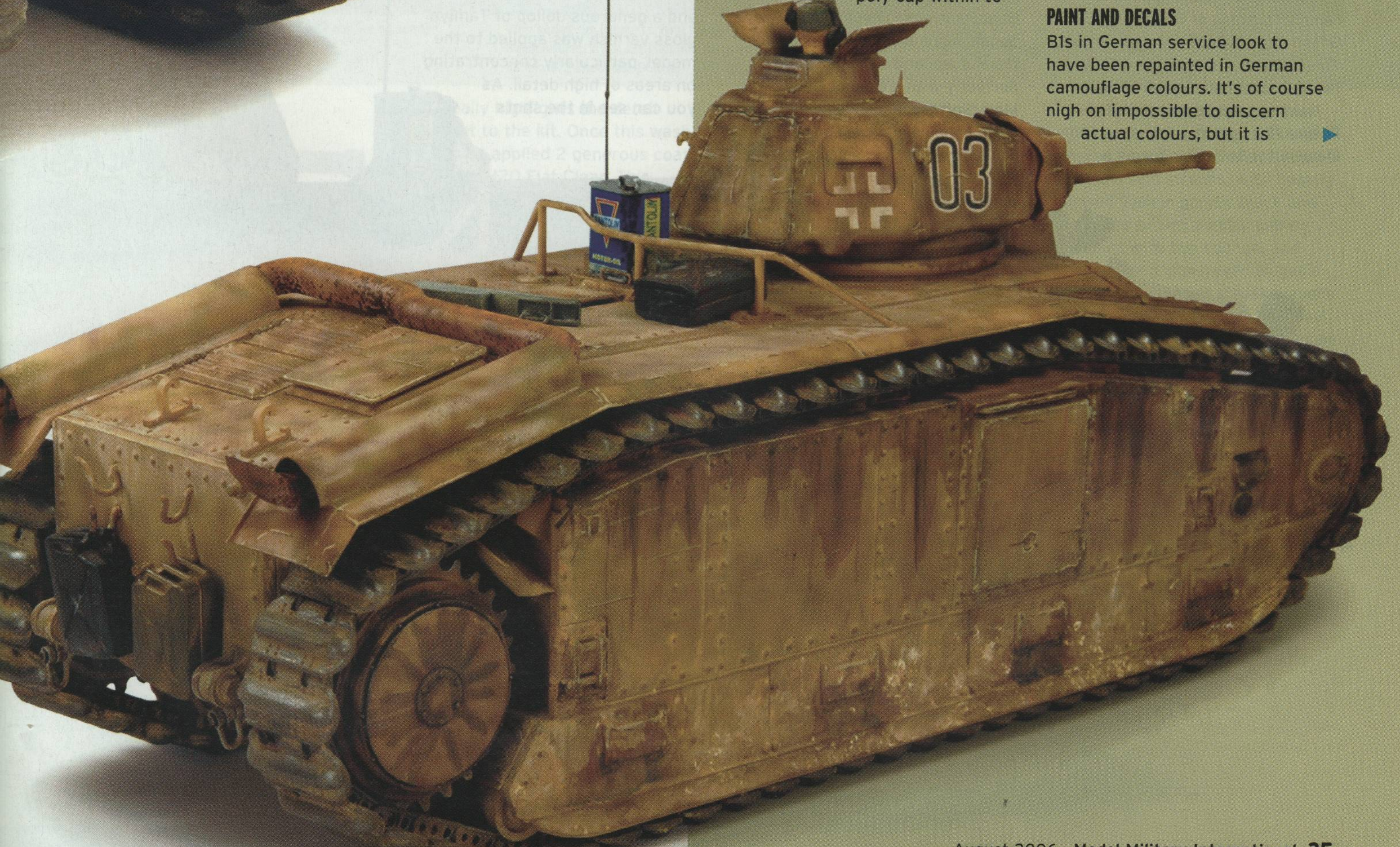
Construction begins as with most kits, at the suspension. There are 16 pairs of road wheels to clean up; normally this would be a total drag. I cheated and didn't clean them up; I just ensured the sprue tags were hidden up inside the hull. The tracks and the hull cover all this anyway. The suspension and lower hull built up incredibly quickly, one tricky bit is gluing the gondola that holds all the road wheels, to the hull. You have to place all 16 wheels sets into this part, and carefully glue it to the hull – but there's nowhere to hold it while doing this. More than a few times I dropped the whole thing, scattering wheels all over the place. Needless to say the suspension really flew together. The tracks come in a separate bag, and aren't attached to sprues. They literally clip together; I had both runs together in less than 10 minutes! The 75mm howitzer mounted in the hull forms part of the suspension, mounting the idler on the right hand side. The idlers and drive sprockets build up the usual Tamiya way, trapping a poly cap within to allow easy removal for painting later. The hull itself went together incredibly quickly, before I knew it the hull halves were together, and I was adding several large access hatches and panels to the upper rear deck. Tamiya have engineered this kit beautifully. There are no gaps, as the lack of putty in the build up pictures can attest.

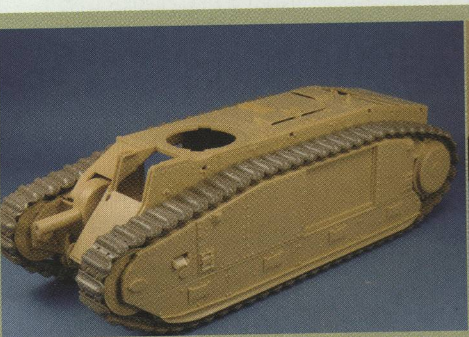
DETAILING

I decided early on in construction that I wanted to depict a German Char or a Panzerkampfwagen B-2 740 (f). Based on pics I found on the Internet, as well as from the excellent Trackstory book on the Char, these tanks when in German service underwent a couple of basic modifications. Tool stowage was augmented with shovels, axes, picks and a crowbar. These were mounted on the forward fender sections. A German pattern rubber antenna mount was fitted on the hull top behind the turret, and the French pattern one included in the kit was left off. Moving to the turret, I modified the cupola by sanding the domed top off and adding rudimentary split hatches from Evergreen styrene. I also added a simple blade sight in front of the cupola. The only other modification I performed was to replace the plastic exhaust guards (parts A27) with lead foil. Oh and I also ground out part B1 to accept an MV lens, to be added later.

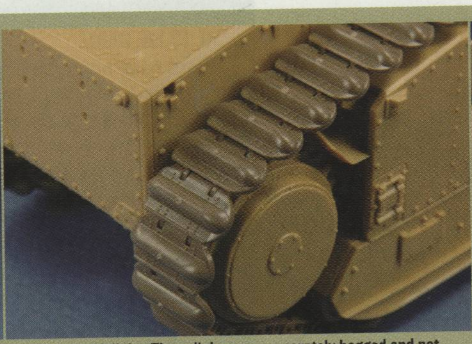
PAINT AND DECALS

B1s in German service look to have been repainted in German camouflage colours. It's of course nigh on impossible to discern actual colours, but it is ▶

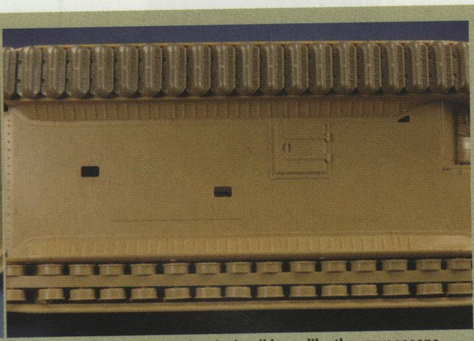




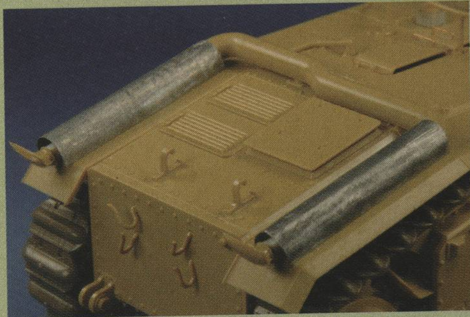
Tracks just placed on to check if links sufficient. The track runs built up in less than 10 mintes in total!



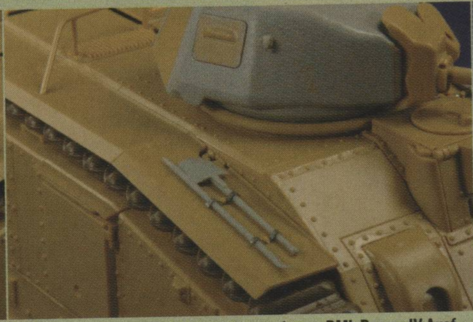
Individual track links. These links come separately bagged and not on sprues. Only a small casting mark is evident and is easily removed with a quick pass over wet and dry sandpaper.



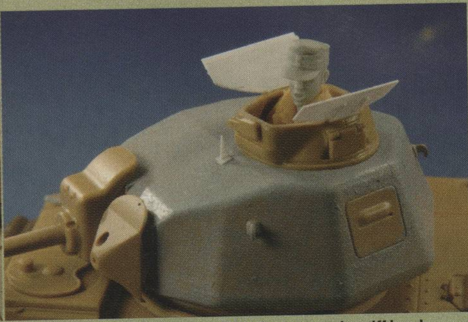
Tamiya have included some lovely detail here, like the crew escape hatch.



The kit supplied exhaust guards were replaced with lead foil guards, for added realism.



Tool stowage. The grey tools are left over from a DML Panzer IV Ausf. E, and the brackets are lead foil bent to shape with a nut taken from a Panther G roadwheel.



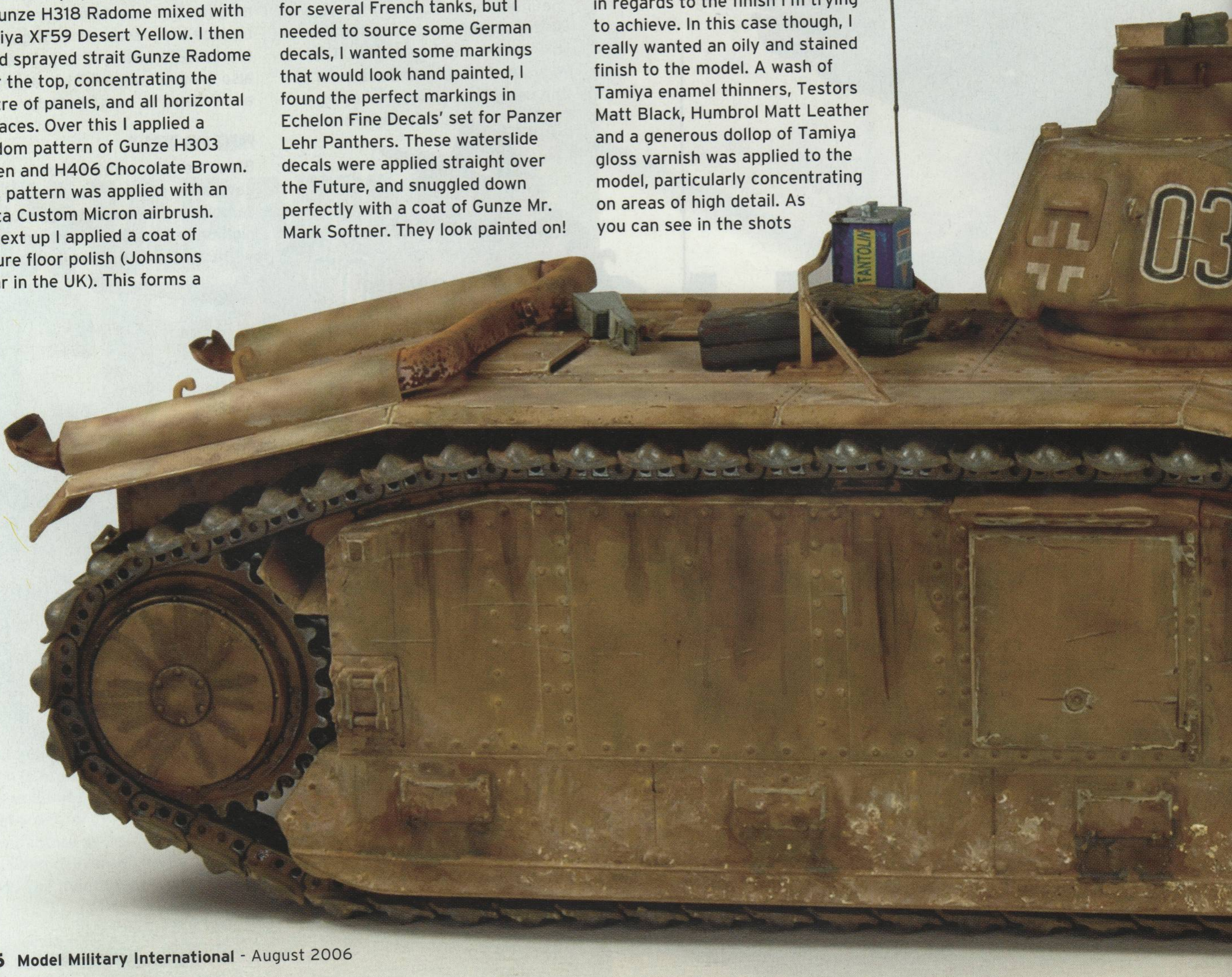
I augmented the cast texture using Mr Surfacer and a stiff brush. The split hatch and blade sight are Evergreen 10 thou plastic card. The figure is a torso from the spares box, with a Hornet Head added.

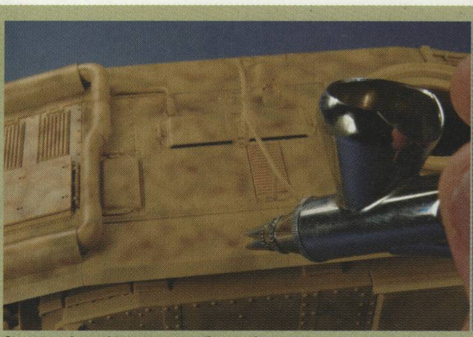
possible to discern that they were repainted in a mottle of green and brown over dark yellow base. I kicked off by spraying a base coat of Gunze H318 Radome mixed with Tamiya XF59 Desert Yellow. I then cloud sprayed strait Gunze Radome over the top, concentrating the centre of panels, and all horizontal surfaces. Over this I applied a random pattern of Gunze H303 Green and H406 Chocolate Brown. This pattern was applied with an Iwata Custom Micron airbrush.

Next up I applied a coat of Future floor polish (Johnsons klear in the UK). This forms a barrier between the paint and the weathering process, and also is a smooth surface for applying decals. The kit comes with decals for several French tanks, but I needed to source some German decals, I wanted some markings that would look hand painted, I found the perfect markings in Echelon Fine Decals' set for Panzer Lehr Panthers. These waterslide decals were applied straight over the Future, and snuggled down perfectly with a coat of Gunze Mr. Mark Softner. They look painted on!

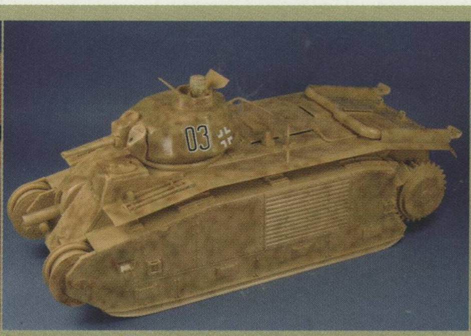
FINISHING

For years I've not applied washes, or filters, to my models. I've always found them a little hard to control in regards to the finish I'm trying to achieve. In this case though, I really wanted an oily and stained finish to the model. A wash of Tamiya enamel thinners, Testors Matt Black, Humbrol Matt Leather and a generous dollop of Tamiya gloss varnish was applied to the model, particularly concentrating on areas of high detail. As you can see in the shots

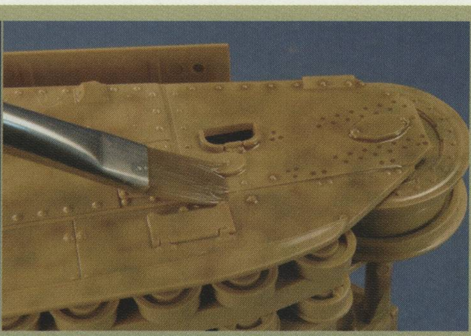




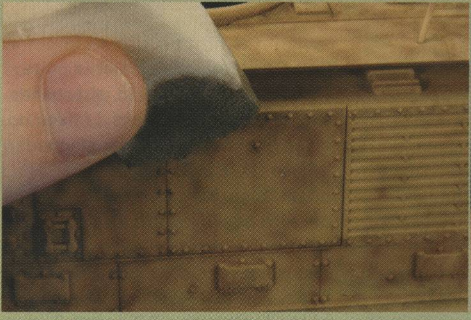
Spraying the red brown camouflage colour.



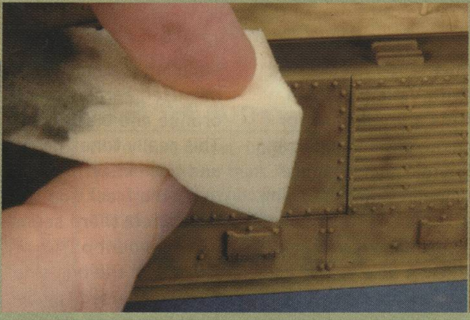
Camouflage completed, a coat of Future floor polish was applied to the model. Decals were applied straight over this, and look painted on!



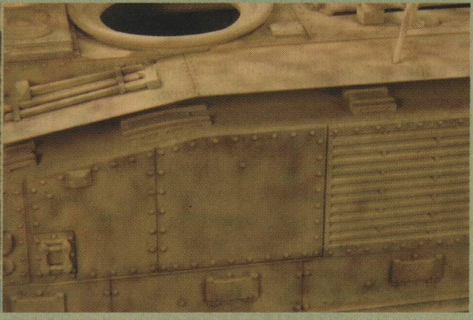
Applying a wash to accentuate detail. Note how the wash itself is quite thin, I wanted to gradually build up the colour rather than doing everything in one pass.



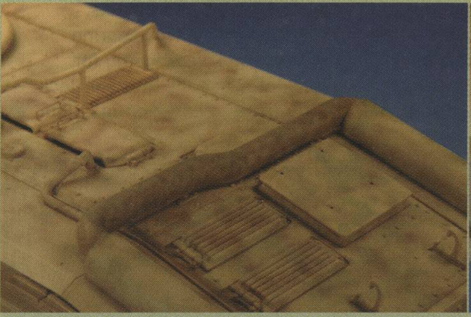
Applying chips and stains with a make up sponge. Thinned Vallejo acrylic paint was used here. Just dab the paint on randomly...



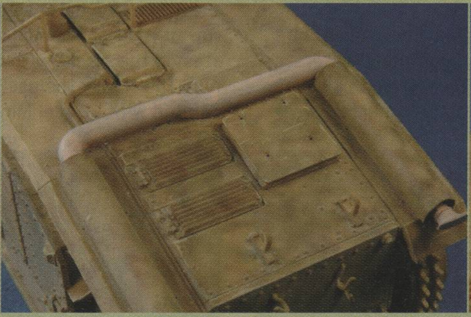
..and smear it in a downward motion with the clean back of the sponge.



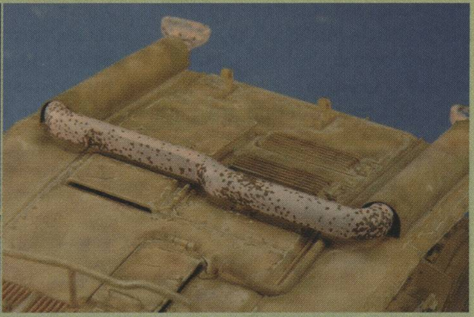
Viola! Smeary oil stains!



Staining added to the exhaust pipe with a make up sponge.



Weathering the exhausts. First I painted them with Vallejo 835 Salmon Rose. When dry I applied dots and irregular splodges with Vallejo 872 Chocolate Brown.



Chocolate Brown dots applied. Dots were concentrated around detail and areas that would get hottest, like bends in the exhaust.

this really highlights the detail inherent to the kit. Once this wash was dry, I applied 2 generous coats of Gunze H20 Flat Clear. This really dulls down the Future polish and provides yet another barrier to the paint.

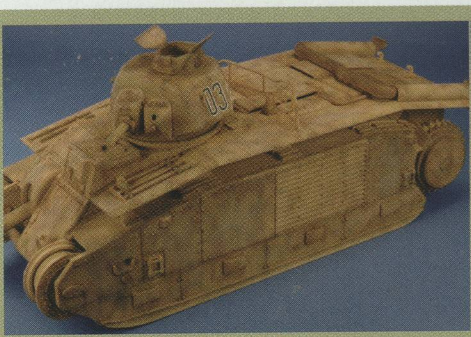
Now the real fun starts. I applied a post shade coat to the model, to really accentuate the panel line and rivet detail, and to continue the weathering process. This process was passed on to me by master modeler and all round nice guy James Blackwell, and with a little practice is easy to do. I filled the paint cup on my Tamiya HF Superfine airbrush up with clean Tamiya acrylic thinners, and then mixed in a drop or two of Tamiya XF64 Red Brown and XF1 Matt Black. This mix was then carefully airbrushed around all details, and downward on the hull sides in a streaky motion. This post shade was also heavily applied around areas that would get high wear, like the escape hatch on the turret, and particularly on the exhaust pipes.

Next up I wanted to continue with the staining process. I used a make up sponge to add random oil stains and streaks, with heavily thinned Vallejo acrylic black and chocolate brown. Firstly dab on the paint with the sponge, and then smear it downward to get a pleasing oil stain or streak. Layers of colour can be built up this way, and by tearing the sponge one can create totally random patterns. This method can also be used with lighter tones of paint; I used thinned Vallejo Buff, but only on upper horizontal surfaces of the tank and in areas of high wear.

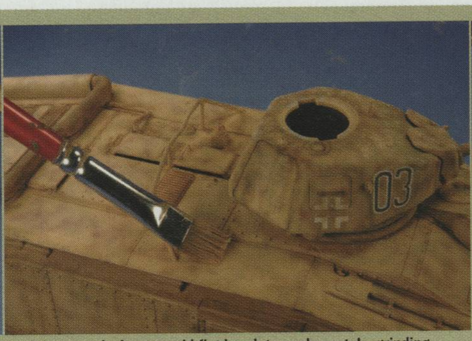
Pastel chalks and pigments were then used to impart a slightly dusty effect on the model. I tried

▶

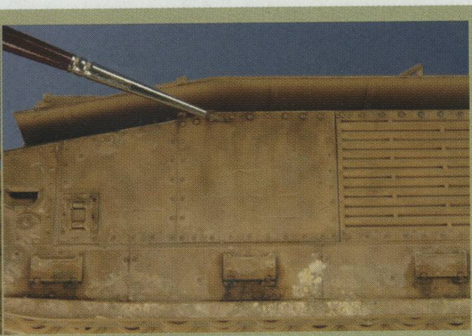
> "Tamiya have engineered this kit beautifully. There are no gaps, as the lack of putty in the build up pictures can attest."



Chips and stains on the hull side. Once again, all these layers of grime were added in a gradual step by step process, rather than trying to achieve all this in one go.



Applying pastels. I use an old flat brush to apply pastels, grinding them and stippling them into corners where grime would naturally accumulate.

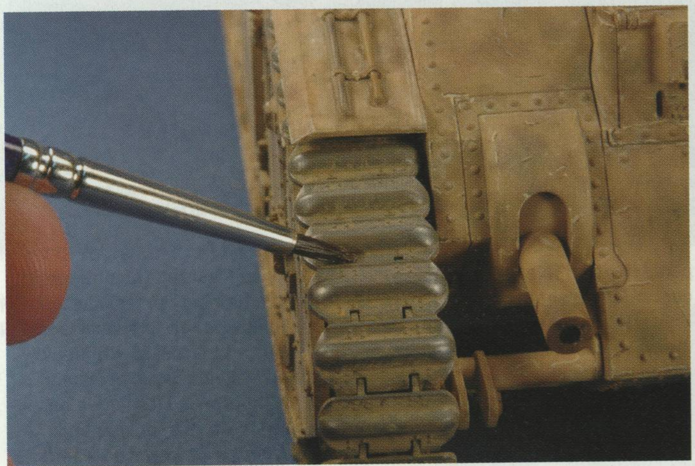


Applying washes with thinned Testors Matt Black. Tracks on the Char were lubricated, and judging from pics of the vehicle in service, tended to throw a lot of lube oil onto the hull sides. Messy, but makes for great modelling!

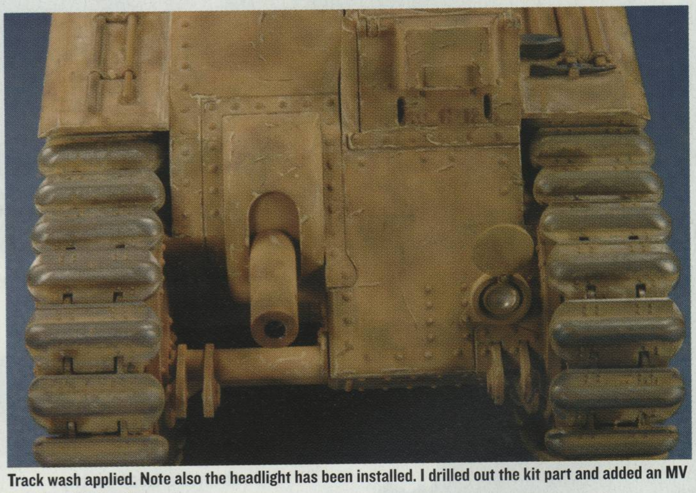
to avoid the 'pastel bomb' look that is easy to do sometimes, erring on the side of restraint when adding pastels and pigments. After all, I wanted to have an oily and stained looking model than a dry and dusty one. At this point I started adding paint chips again using Vallejo Buff. I remember reading Marcus Nichols' article on the Tasca Luchs in an old issue of TMMI where he mentions that painted on paint chips look funny up close, but far better a little further away. This couldn't be truer with this Char. I applied chips to areas of high wear and edges first with Buff, then with Vallejo Chocolate brown. I painted the exhaust with Vallejo Salmon Rose, this forms a great base for a rusted out exhaust. This vehicle would have been in service since the fall of France in 1940 so I think this effect is perfect for a vehicle of this age. Pink exhaust you say? Bear with me! Over this colour I applied a fairly random series of dots and shapes with Chocolate brown. I concentrated the dots on where there would be hot spots on the exhaust, like on corners and where the exhaust itself enters the exhaust pipe. Over this pink and brown abstract masterpiece I applied more of the post shade mix used earlier, as well as some orange and black pastel chalks. This really tones down the colours and ties everything in together.

As the tracks on the Char were lubricated, there seemed to be a fair amount of run off, all the way down the hull sides in a lot of cases! I used thinned Testors Matt Black and a fine brush to replicate this, concentrating on the inspection hatches and the top row of rivet on the hull sides. I also stained the tracks with this oily mix. The tracks themselves were painted with Citadel Miniatures Bolt Gun Metal. This paint is quite fantastic; it's an acrylic, airbrushes well and dries rock hard. I mixed up a slurry of Mig Pigments, slopped it onto the tracks with an old brush, them smeared much of it off with an old t-shirt. The tools were painted with Vallejo acrylics and weathered up as per the tank itself. I burnished the metals parts of the tools with a 2B pencil. The headlight was glued in situ, and dusted lightly with pastels.

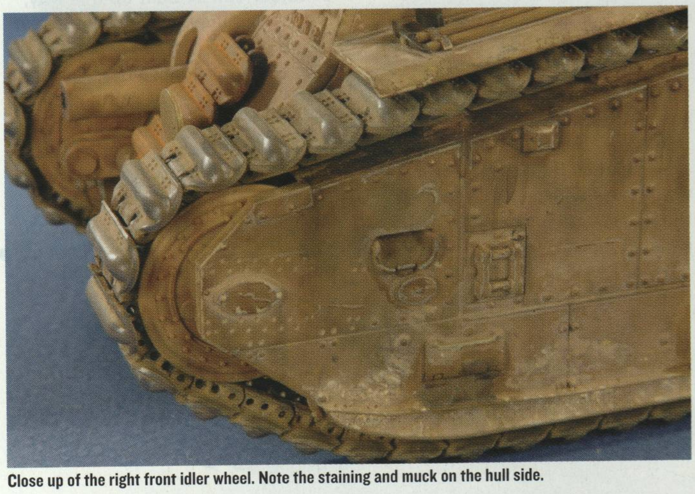
As the model was nearing completion I was looking for some stowage for the rear deck, something to add a bit of colour



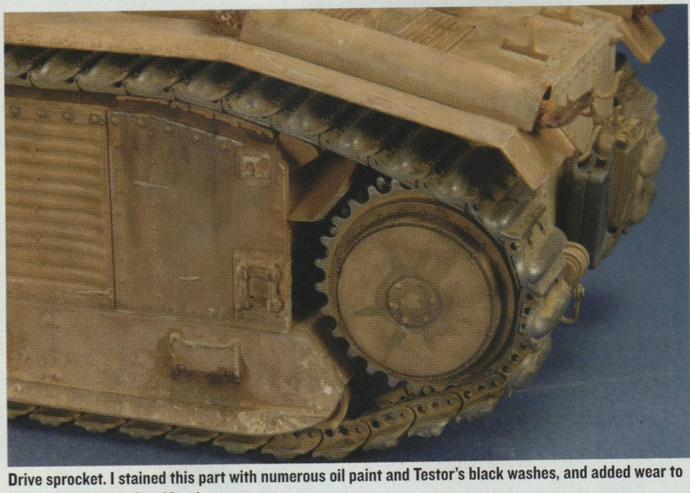
The tracks on the Char are lubricated, so I applied a black wash to selected areas on the track.



Track wash applied. Note also the headlight has been installed. I drilled out the kit part and added an MV lens for added realism.



Close up of the right front idler wheel. Note the staining and muck on the hull side.



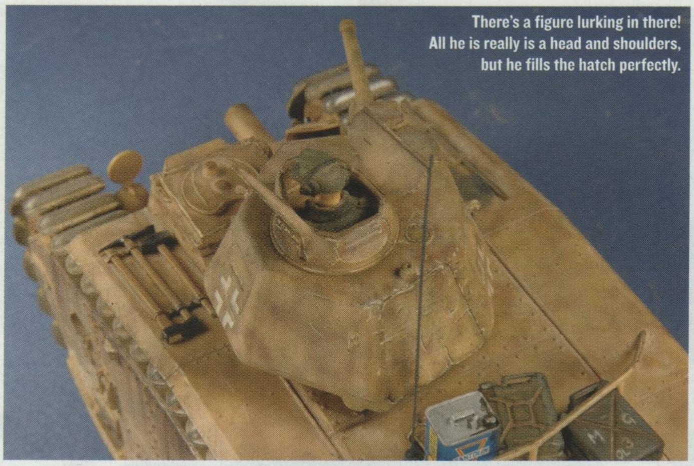
Drive sprocket. I stained this part with numerous oil paint and Testor's black washes, and added wear to the teeth with Bolt Gun Metal.

and life to the model. My pal Willy Nailor provided me with some early and late war Jerrycans, as well as a civilian pattern oilcan. This can has a bright blue label, and looks the business on the back deck. As a last touch I added an open and seemingly discarded 7.92mm ammo liner, from Aber. This was also painted in Vallejo's, as was the crew figure. The crew figure is somewhat of a mutant, being essentially only a set of shoulders, and a head. All I needed was someone to fit in the hatch in the turret, and he was perfect. An antenna was added from stretched sprue and you guessed it, painted with Vallejo black grey.

With this the model was (to me anyway) considered finished.

CONCLUSION

Congratulations Tamiya on releasing another smashing kit, of a brilliant and long awaited subject. I cannot recommend this kit highly enough. ■



There's a figure lurking in there! All he is really is a head and shoulders, but he fills the hatch perfectly.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Hi I'm Sam Dwyer, but to most of my friends I'm known as Sam Dwyer. I think I've been modelling since I 'helped' Dad build a Matchbox Lancaster when I was 5. I've been modelling seriously for about 15 years though, since being done with the distraction of High School. German armour has always been my first love, but these days I'll build anything that tickles my fancy. I've written a couple of books for Osprey (Modelling the Marder SP Gun and co author on Modelling the T55 MBT) and have written a few magazine articles. I had the pleasure of first meeting Spud at Euro Militaire in 2003. ■

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Spud and Tamiya for the kit and thanks to Willy Nailor for his help with the stowage and motivation. Thanks also to Mic Bradshaw for his help.

Modelspec

Tamiya's 1:35 French Battle Tank Chars B1 bis
Kit No.35282

Sets used

Tamiya Char B1 bis Kit No.35282
Tamiya Jerrycan Kit No.35186
Real Models civilian oil cans
Echelon Fine Decals Panzer Lehr Panthers

Paints used

Tamiya;
XF1 Flat Black, XF59 Desert Yellow, XF64 Red Brown
Gunze Sangyo;
H20 Flat Clear, H318 Radome, H303 Green, H406 (Chocolate Brown)
Vallejo;
976 Buff, 830 German Uniform Colour/Field Grey, 862 Black Grey, 835 Salmon Rose, 872 Chocolate Brown
Humbrol;
62 Flat Leather, Gloss Varnish
Testors;
37038 Flat Black
Citadel Miniatures;
Bolt Gun Metal
Future:
Floor Polish

References

Chars B au Combat Histoire & Collections
ISBN 2913903428
Trackstory Les Chars B Editions du Barbotin
ISBN 2952098824

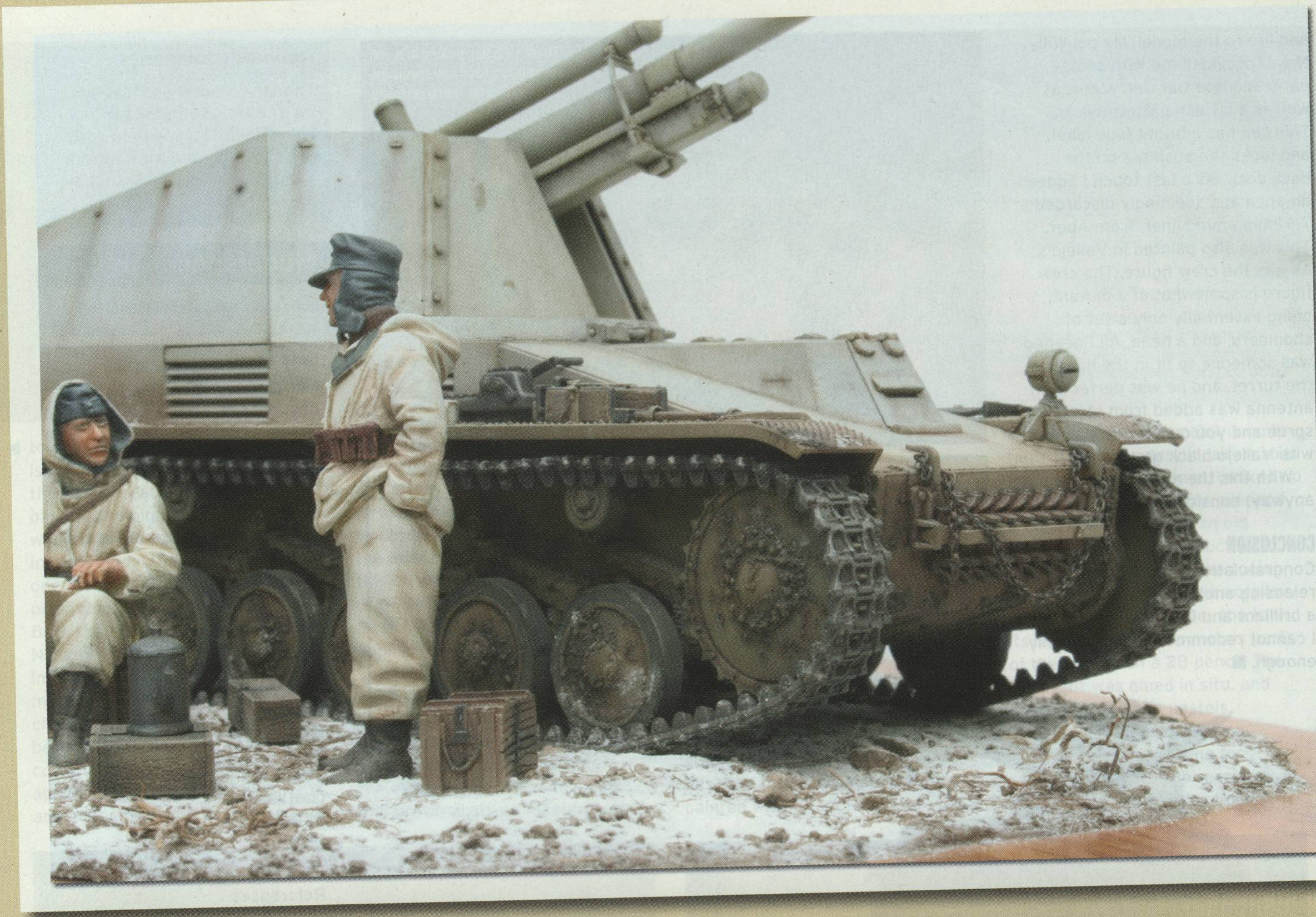
✓ Easy to build, fantastic subject hitherto unavailable in this scale and medium. Individual tracks that snap together.

✗ Slightly tricky suspension assembly.

Available from

All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



ERSATZ COFFEE BREAK

Wayne Timmo reminds us what winter looks like with this chilly feeling vignette.

By the start of 1943 the panzer II had seen service everywhere the German army had ventured – from the deserts of North Africa to the frozen wastes of Russia. However, despite the robust nature of the vehicle it was no match for the opponents it was facing on the battlefield and was relegated to training or rear area duties and new uses found for the hulls still under construction.

By this time the need for artillery support that could keep up with the panzers, was quick to deploy and offered protection for the crew was also clear.

In one of those quick fire engineering jobs the Germans were growing so adept at, the panzer II chassis was reshuffled to a mid-engined configuration and the and 105mm light field howitzer installed in a new armoured superstructure to create the Wespe, or Wasp.

Despite it's small size and the fact it was never meant to be a final answer to the questions tasks asked of it, the vehicle was a success with nearly 700 built and serving through much of the mid and into the later parts of the war on nearly all fronts.

THE MODEL

When does a model placed on groundwork become a diorama? Does it depend on the size of the vehicle and whether there are figures, or simply the perspective of the viewer?

Whatever the definition, adding a bit of dirt for a vehicle to rest on and a crewmember or three can add life and context to any kit and for a minimum of effort.

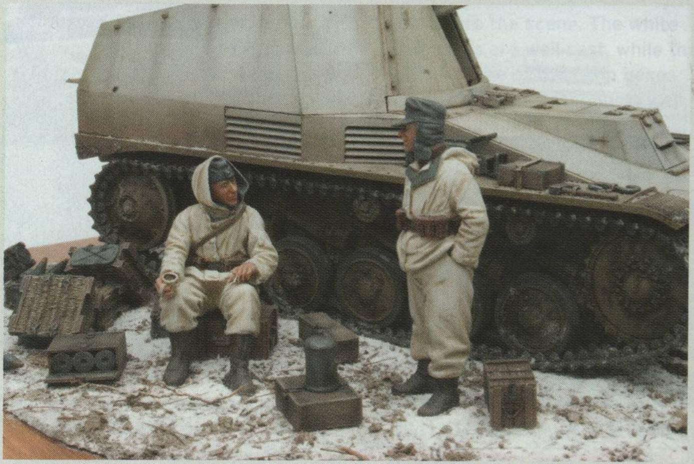
I've always had a soft spot for open topped vehicles, they give a glimpse into the areas where the crew work like an enclosed tank never can and they just cry out for a variety of weathering effects – dirt on the bottom and bare metal on the gun breech!

The Tamiya kit of the fetching-looking Wespe self-propelled howitzer came out in the late 1990s and is all one would expect of this manufacturer. Well-moulded parts all but remove themselves from the sprue and line up for a quick application of glue before falling together to create the finished model.

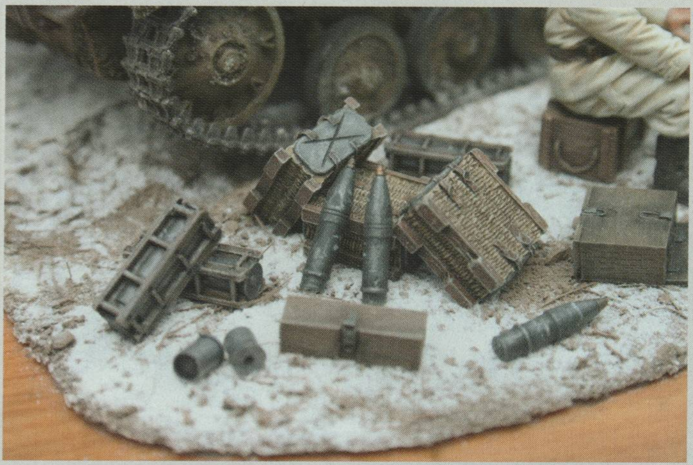
With a photo etch set numerous fiddly bits could no doubt be added, especially to the fighting compartment, but as this kit was built whilst I was a student and pennies were scarce, A bit of ingenuity would have to suffice instead.

The moulded on tool clamps were replaced with brass strip, and a headlight cable added from fuse wire before attention turned to the inside.

One of the few shortcomings of the kit is the lack of options for showing partially full ammunition lockers. The kit offers the vertical racks containing the propellant charges open but with moulded



Verlinden's Ostfront coffee break figure set No1056 proved perfect for populating the vignette and careful painting by the author has really brought them to life. The Verlinden range is available from Historex Agents in the UK.



The ammunition is from the MR Models range, the projectiles are white metal castings and the wicker shipping containers are produced in resin. MR Models are available from Armour Distribution in the UK.

in canisters. Meanwhile the shell lockers at the rear are moulded integrally with the floor. After seeing resin and photo etch accessories that would take care of this problem I was inspired enough to embark on an alternative with little more than a drill press and plastic card.

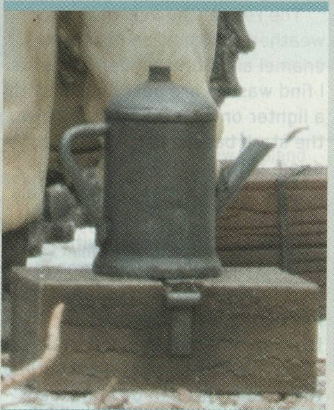
Drill points were marked and holes of the correct diameter made, with a few examples ending up in the bin before the correct drill speed was found to cut the plastic cleanly without either tearing or melting it. power/radio cables were added to the superstructure walls with fuse wire and lead foil retainers and then it was onto the painting. The caked on mud and dirt was added before the vehicle was painted.

A muddy mix was created from artist's acrylic gel and very fine silica sand and spread about the lower hull and running gear. The results were adequate at the time, but created a few problems later in the project with adding colour. With the arrival of all manner of weathering pigments and powders creating a more effective muddy slurry, it's a technique I'd only use again if the mud were applied much like the real thing – thrown on after the vehicle was painted.

PAINTING

The Wespe was painted in Tamiya XF60 Dark Yellow acrylic with a heavily thinned coat of XF2 white laid over. It was given a scrub with a coarsely bristled brush dipped in thinners to distress it a bit, but the paint had largely set and remained where it was – oh well, it's early in the season before the whitewash has started to lift.

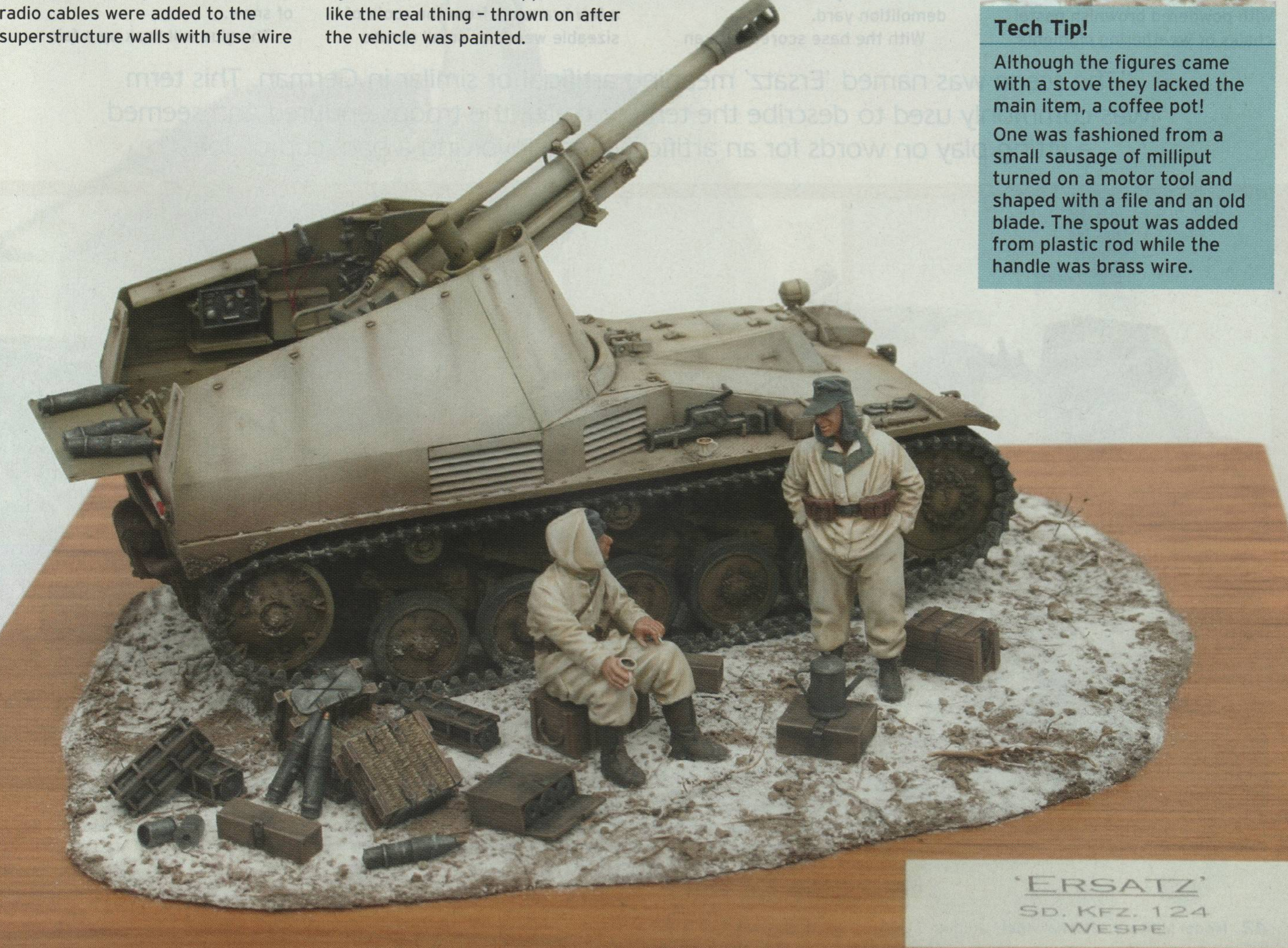
The running gear was given an overspray of the XF52 Flat Earth with the spots of mud added earlier touched in with careful spot sprays. ▶

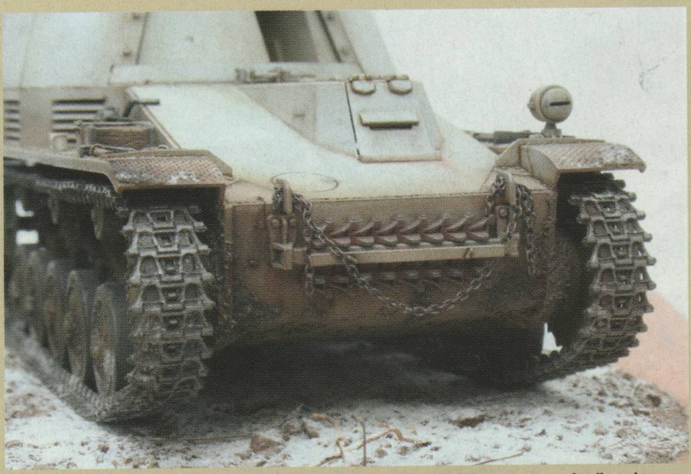


Tech Tip!

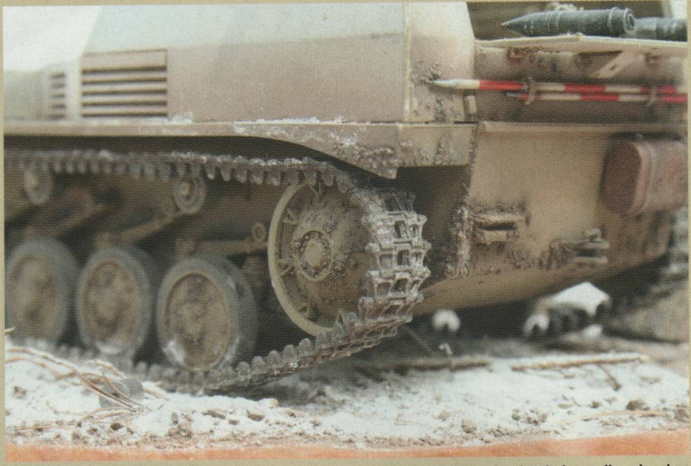
Although the figures came with a stove they lacked the main item, a coffee pot!

One was fashioned from a small sausage of milliput turned on a motor tool and shaped with a file and an old blade. The spout was added from plastic rod while the handle was brass wire.





Colour washes of black enamel and burnt umber oil paints have been used to accentuate details and tone down the stark base colour. The wear on the tracks was achieved by dry-brushing them with Tamiya XF-56 Metallic Grey and X11 Chrome Silver.



The mud on the Wespe's running gear and lower hull was made up from a mix of artist's acrylic gel and very fine grain silica sand. The red and white ranging poles add that all important splash of colour.

The rest of the vehicle was weathered with washes of black enamel and burnt umber oil paints. I find washes are best applied with a lighter one overall to tone down the stark base colour. Once well dried, a heavier wash is applied around detail and in crevices. This is left to dry for about 10 minutes until a brush moistened with enamel thinner can still remove the excess. The hard-edged tidemarks left by the wash can then be feathered to create a soft edge and leave a subtle shadow highlighting the detail. This can be enhanced with powdered brownish pastel chalks or weathering pigments.

The tracks were painted with XF64 red brown – perhaps one of the most useful colours around – with the dark rusty finish drybrushed with XF56 Metallic Grey with a drop of X11 Chrome added.

THE GROUNDWORK

Usually I spread diorama groundwork near to the edge of the base, but with a small vehicle and being such a small scene I wanted a more compact scene with a small 'puddle' of earth surrounded by a rich wood grain courtesy of a demolition yard.

With the base scored with an old knife to provide a grip, a small batch of wall-patching plaster and a dash of white glue was mixed and spread where needed. If you're aiming for a straight edge, mask it off and remove the tape before the plaster dries to prevent cracking, if not, just be careful.

Make sure the plaster is more than about 3-4mm thick as it will shrink slightly when it dries and if too thin will lift from the base.

After a coat of heavily diluted white glue small stones and grit swept from the driveway can then be sprinkled on, along with a few branches from the roots of sizeable weeds or small shrubs – whatever you come across first in the garden.

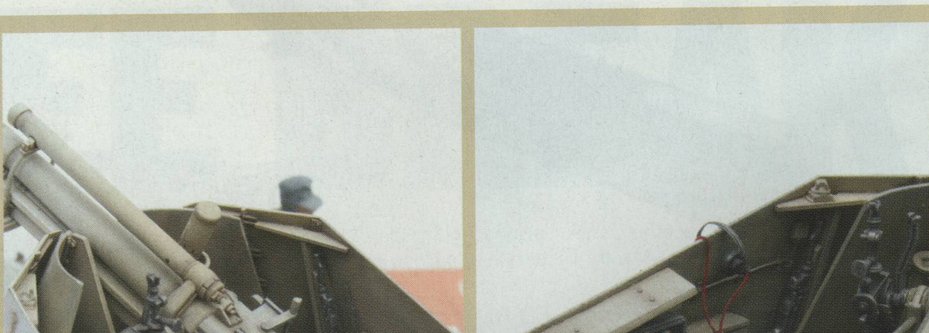
The vehicle and any figures can then be gently pressed into place and track marks enhanced with a screwdriver or old blade.

Once the lot was painted an earthly shade it was time to create a winter wonderland. A patchy coat of thinned white glue was dabbed on, and baking powder then sifted over. Although there are commercial snow products on the market, I find the extremely fine grain of this baking product more than adequate for a light dusting of snow.

The glue will soak up a fair

"The scene was named 'Ersatz' meaning artificial or similar in German. This term was commonly used to describe the terrible coffee the troops endured and seemed a fitting play on words for an artificial scene involving a bad 'cup of Joe'."

The author has depicted the vehicle early in the winter season, therefore the wear to the white wash has been kept to a minimum.



A testament to how good the Tamiya Wespe is, the only additions and modifications the author felt needed adding to the interior was some electrical wiring and a new ammunition locker made from plastic card to represent one opened and empty.

amount of baking powder, but it will reach a stage where it sticks, without the uppermost layer looking soaked. Blow off the excess and the groundwork is done.

The figures are from Verlinden and the superb posing of this pair dictated much of the layout of the scene. The only modification made was turning the figure of the standing gent to have him engaged in conversation with his friend. A second coffee mug was added on the Wespe, creating a visual link between the figures and the vehicle. Small touches like this can help lift a diorama beyond a random collection of vehicles and figures and grab the viewer's attention.

The figures were undercoated with a mix of white acrylic with a tiny drop of dark yellow and flat earth added. Winter uniforms are never pure white and quickly take on a grubby appearance and the yellow helps tone them down nicely. Shadows and the flesh areas were then painted with a mix of enamels, with a dash of raw umber for the shadows and white for the highlights adding the advantage of the oil paint's longer drying time.

Ammunition and casings from MR Models was scattered around to complete the scene. The white metal shells are well cast, while the wicker texture of the resin boxes are a joy to paint, responding well to a wash and light dry brushing.

This diorama is the one of the smallest I've yet done and you could argue it hardly even qualifies as one, but was one of my most enjoyable projects to date and has received some of the most favourable comments – So who said bigger was better? ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Sd Kfz 124 Wespe **Kit No.35200**

Materials

Injection moulded sand coloured styrene, one piece tracks, polycaps, and waterslide decals.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics; XF1 Flat Black, XF2 Flat White, XF 52 Flat Earth, XF60 Dark Yellow XF64 Red Brown.

Accessories materials

Verlinden figures No 1056 Coffee Break Ostfront.
MR Modellbau 3546 10.5cm ammunition for GW II WESPE & le.FH.18.

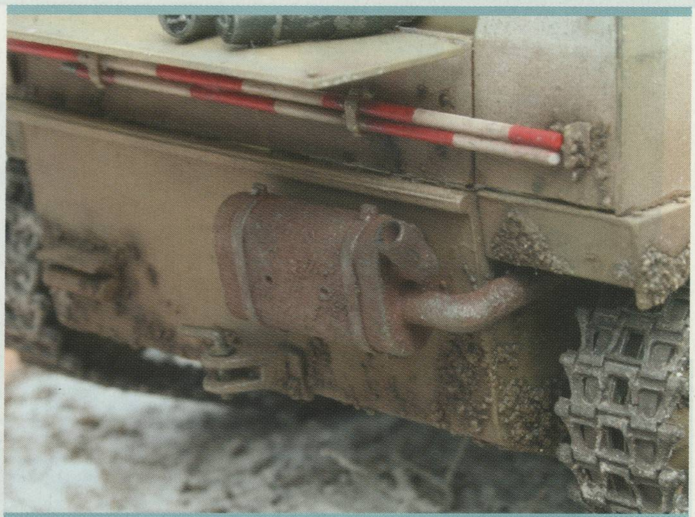
✓ Ease of assembly and excellent fit of parts

✗ lack of ammo stowage options.

Available from

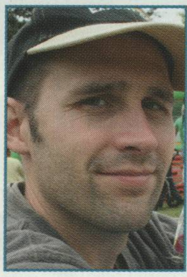
All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



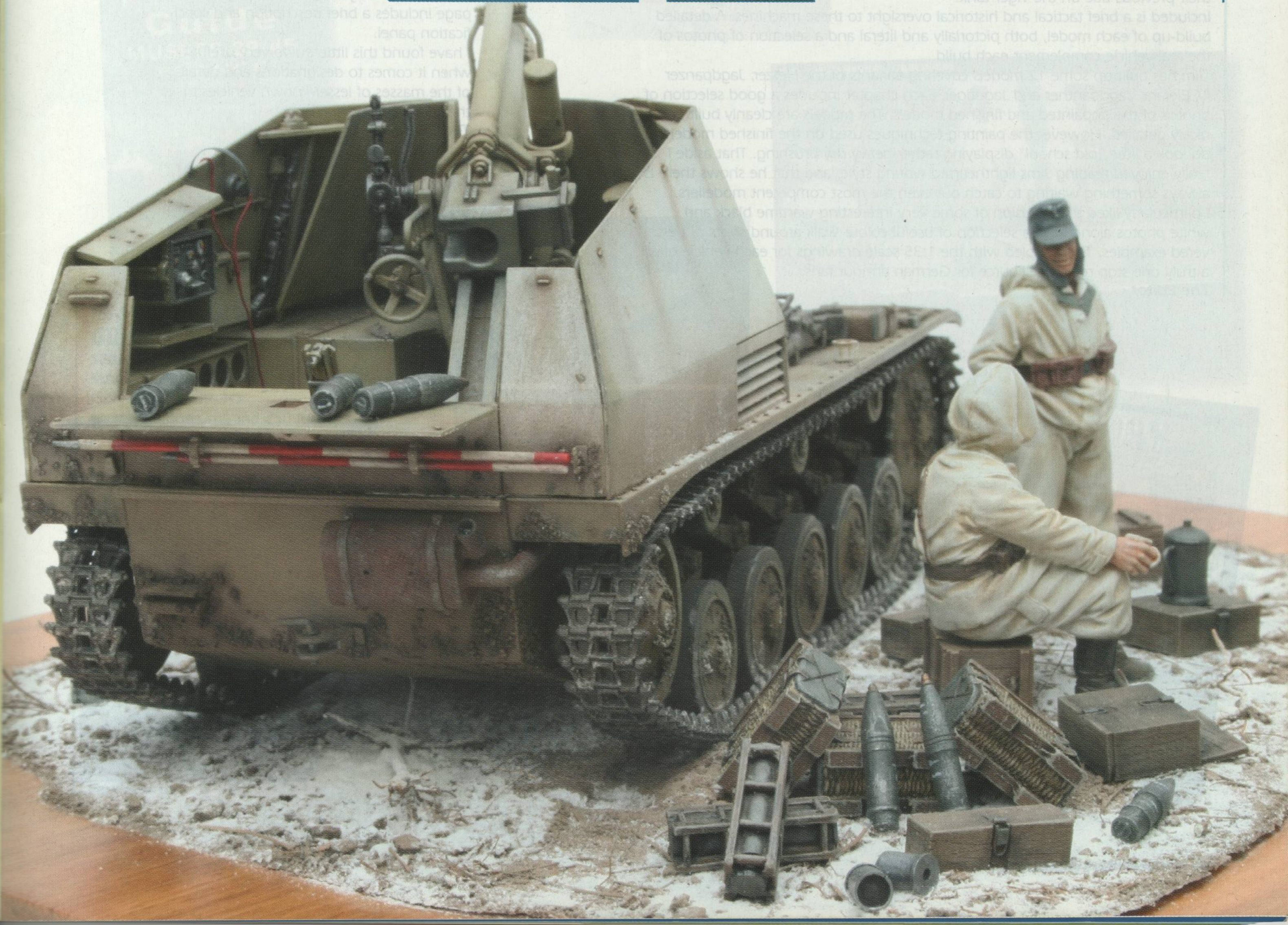
Tech Tip!

The exhaust received a coat of thinned white glue, with baking powder sprinkled on to create a rusted, flaking appearance.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Wayne Timmo lives in the Waikato area of New Zealand where he edits a weekly community newspaper. He began modelling while at school but drifted away until in an urge to build something struck in his mid 20s. Wayne builds mainly military models and is a fan of dioramas but will also build everything from cars to aircraft and even the odd nautical subject to expand his horizons. ■



Book Reviews

Military Miniatures in Review presents:
THE MODELER'S GUIDE TO
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A comprehensive guide to modeling German self-propelled anti-tank guns in 1/35th scale
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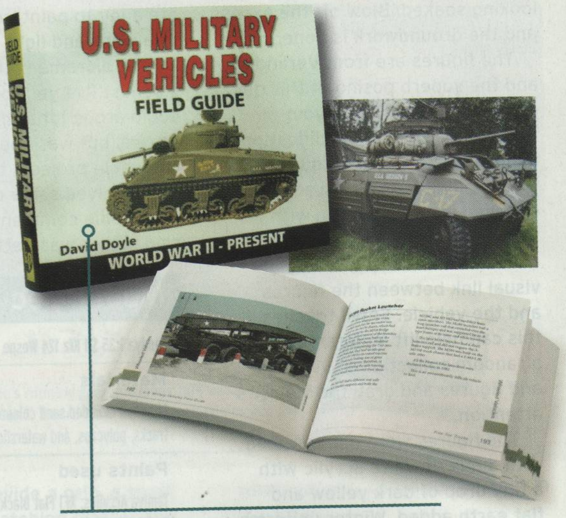
Jagdpanther (late production)
Jagdpanzer 38 Starr


U.S. MILITARY VEHICLES
FIELD GUIDE
David Doyle
WORLD WAR II - PRESENT

MILITARY MINIATURES IN REVIEW THE MODELLERS GUIDE TO THE JAGDPANZER (PT 1)

JIM HENSLEY
AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

This book offers some 120 pages of informative reference and building tips for German Armour fans interested in the many and varied hunting tanks used by the German Army during World War II; this volume follows the same format as their previous title on the Tiger tank.

Included is a brief tactical and historical oversight to these machines. A detailed build-up of each model, both pictorially and literal and a selection of photos of the real vehicle complement each build.

Jim has built up some 12 models covering variants of the Hetzer, Jagdpanzer IV, Elefant, Jagdpanther and Jagdtiger. Each chapter includes a good selection of photos of the unpainted and finished models. The models are cleanly built and nicely detailed. However the painting techniques used on the finished models do look a little "old school" displaying rather heavy dry brushing. That aside I really enjoyed reading Jims lighthearted writing style, and that he shows there is always something waiting to catch out even the most competent modellers.

I particularly liked the inclusion of some very interesting wartime black and white photos along with a selection of useful colour walk around shots of persevered examples. This coupled with the 1:35 scale drawings for each vehicle offer a truly one stop reference source for German armour fans.

The Editor

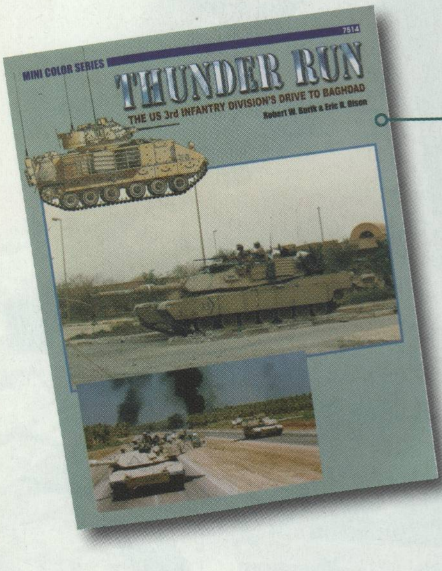
U.S. MILITARY VEHICLES FIELD GUIDE WWII - PRESENT

DAVID DOYLE
KP BOOKS
ISBN 0-89689-270-0

This is a handy little quick reference guide from renowned author David Doyle. As the title states the book covers all U.S military vehicles form the humble motorcycle right through to modern main battle tanks. Each vehicle is covered by in a double page spread. The left hand page offers a clear photo of the subject, whilst the right hand page includes a brief description and specification panel.

I have found this little guide very useful when it comes to designations and details of the masses of lesser-known vehicles in the US inventory.

The Editor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THE US 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION'S DRIVE TO BAGHDAD
Robert W. Burik & Eric R. Olsen

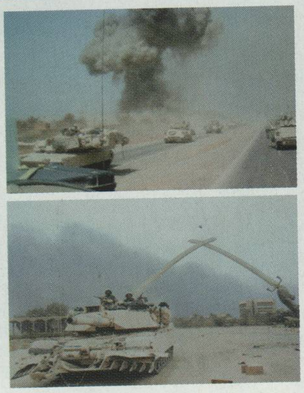
MINI COLOR SERIES THUNDER RUN THE US 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION'S DRIVE TO BAGHDAD

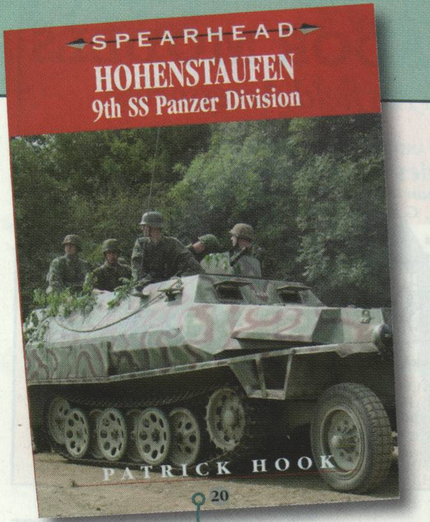
ROBERT W.BURIK AND ERIC R. OLSEN
CONCORD PUBLICATIONS
ISBN 962-361-112-9

I'm a great fan of these Mini Colour books from Concord; they are perfect for modern armor fans. The quality of the photos is first rate, offering large clear shots, which are useful for both detailing and weathering reference. Every page turned offers some fantastic modeling subjects or diorama potential.

The intro and captions are informative; it is also obvious that the authors have been in the thick of the action to get these fantastic shots of this historic event.

The Editor

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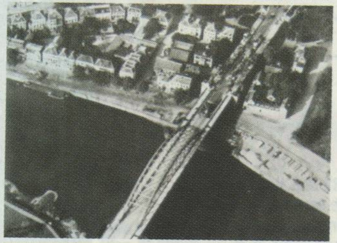
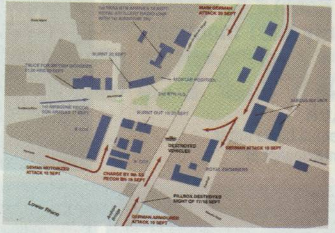
HOHENSTAUFEN
9th SS Panzer Division
PATRICK HOOK
20





SPEARHEAD 20 HOHENSTAUFEN 9TH SS PANZER DIVISION

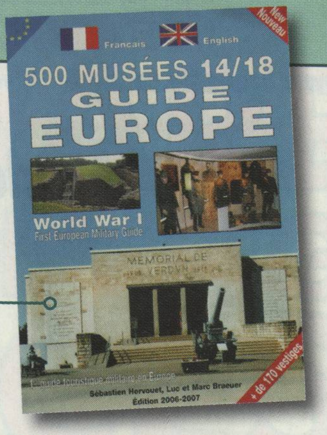
PATRICK HOOK

Ian Allen Publishing

ISBN 0-7110-3064-2

This compact 96-page volume covers the origins, history, operational record, equipment, personalities and effectiveness of the 9th SS Pz Div. Also included are over 100 black and white photos and 10 coloured maps together with several data tables. Clearly, a book of this size can only give a brief overview of the subject and provide a lead-in to further study if ones interest lies in that direction. However, a lot of information is packed between the covers of this excellent production and it is well worth adding to any WWII German library.

Paul Egerton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SEBASTIEN HERVOUET, LUC AND MARC BRAEUER

ISBN 2-9517049-4-1

Similar to the WWII offering, this volume covers over 500 museums and 170 sites of interest associated with the First World War. The information is contained in 192 pages with over 150 colour photos. The layout is again by country and region (France, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia and Switzerland).

Also priced at 15 Euros this will be an invaluable companion to the WWII volume.

Paul Egerton

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SEBASTIEN HERVOUET, LUC AND MARC BRAEUER

ISBN 2-9517049-3-3

Over 800 museums and 250 further sites of interest associated with WWII are detailed in this bilingual (French and English) volume now in its third edition. The practical information is contained in 272 pages and covered by over 250 colour photos laid out by country (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Great Britain, the Channel Islands, Italy, Germany (Siegfried Line) and Swiss Fortifications) and region within the country. This guide will give you the opportunity to organise your travel and ensure that no military sites of interest are missed.

Priced at 15 Euros, this is a very handy volume indeed particularly if travelling on the continent.

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TOPSHOT T64/T64A MAIN BATTLE TANK

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ISBN 83-60445-02-8

Another in the excellent Topshot series covering the T64 in 44 pages and 158 photos. As is the norm, there is a short introduction in English and all of the photos have English and Polish captions. A T64A and T64R from the Ukrainian Museum of the Great Patriotic War are featured with extensive external coverage but no internal shots. Needless to say, the photos are of a high quality and the colour reproduction is very good indeed. As a bonus, a mask for vehicle numbers is also included.

This is an invaluable source for the modeller and is excellent value for money. A 'must have' for any post WWII AFV enthusiast.

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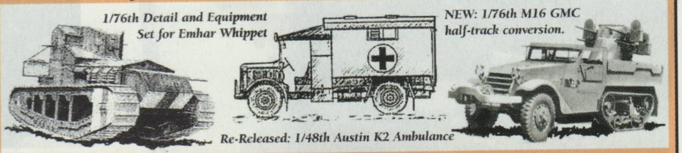
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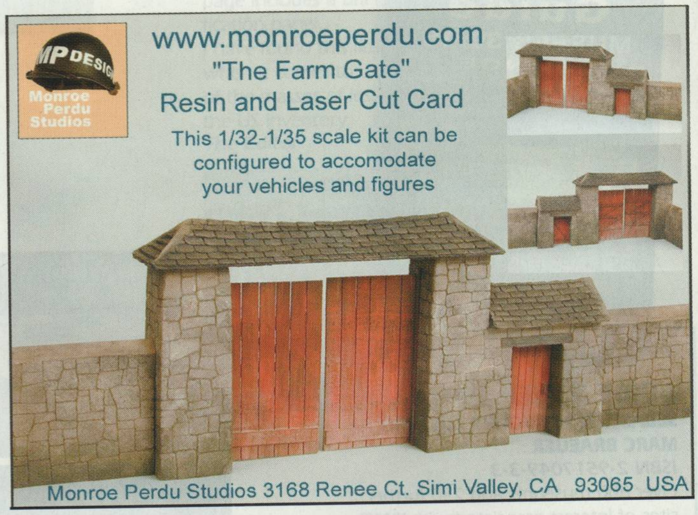

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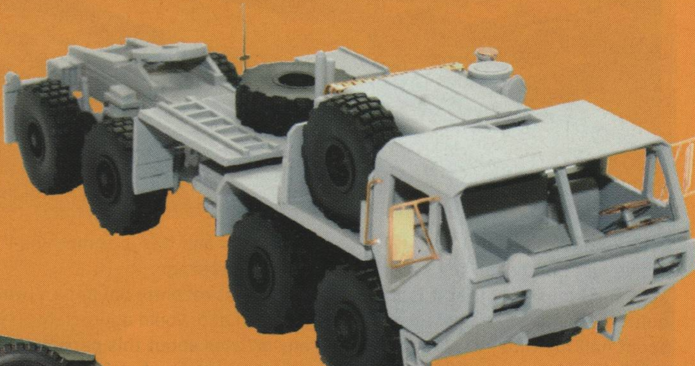

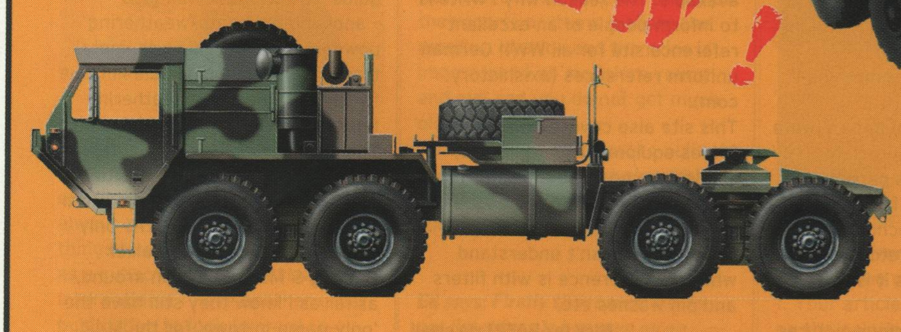

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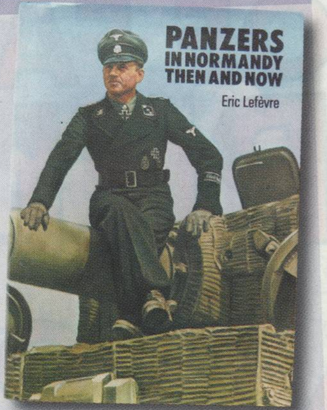
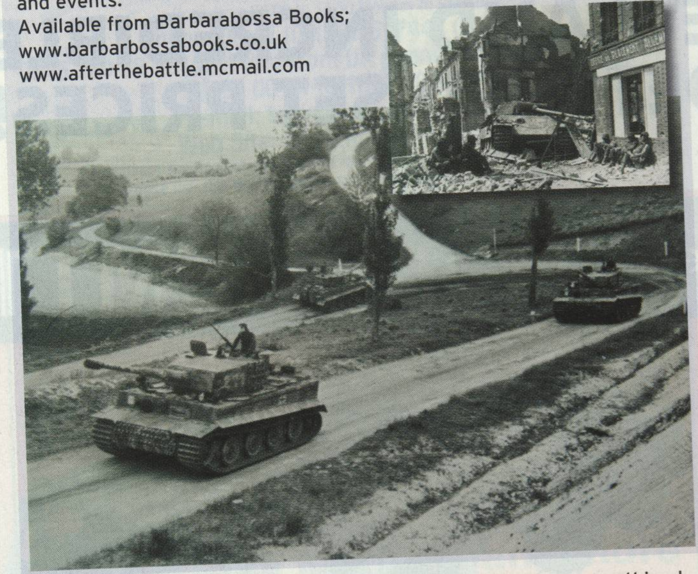


Although this isn't a new title it is one of my favourite books. As this issue of MMI hits the shelves I will be on a "working" holiday in Normandy visiting the D Day Beaches, museums and surrounding countryside, and I couldn't think of a more appropriate book to give me plenty of background information for my trip.
This hardback book comprises of 212 pages in the After the Battles familiar format of matching up wartime pictures with their modern day comparison, there is also a selection of maps showing all the key areas and events.
Available from Barbarabossa Books;
www.barbarbossabooks.co.uk
www.afterthebattle.mcmail.com



LETTER OF THE MONTH

I have just purchased the second MMI and I must say that it is a quite fantastic magazine. I have spent half my time drooling over the finish of the models and the other half getting depressed when I look at my own attempts in comparison. The Churchill and the RSO were outstanding models and Issue 2 feels like reading an expensive specialist publication by Mig Jimenez or some of the worlds top Modellers rather than a monthly magazine.
I really like your style of Kit Review. I find that it is concise and to the point. I have read other Model magazines where the review drifts off into a history lesson about the particular type and this is wholly unnecessary. The best thing about your reviews so far is the fact that you have managed to include close up pictures of what's in the box and this is something I would encourage.
I have just recently bought an Iwata airbrush and would appreciate any articles about this particular subject, best brushes for shading or for mottles, tips, techniques etc. Perhaps you could stretch this over a number of issues, as it is quite a wide-ranging subject.
I really enjoyed the colour pictures of the Fallschirmjager in Issue 1 and was wondering if you would be including any more uniform photos.
Finally I would ask what periods of history will you be primarily covering. My preference is the Second World War although I don't mind anything from the Twentieth century. There is a long standing UK military modelling magazine which can include articles about the Prussian army from the Napoleonic era through to the types of uniform British regiments wore in India during the reign of Queen Victoria, which although are all well and good for those that are interested in that sort of thing it can make for a very dry read. My one request is that MMI remains first and foremost a Modelling magazine.

Gordon J McGowne via email

Ed says; ***Thank you, for the kind words of encouragement Gordon, well to answer your questions, we do have lots of features and technique articles on the way. I just need to crack the whip a bit harder and get my contributors to hurry up and finish the ones they are working on. We will pretty much stick with the twentieth and twenty-first century for our area of coverage; this isn't to say if we were offered a really nice American civil War diorama for instance we would certainly include it.***
If we feature any uniforms photos they will generally tie in with a corresponding article, as per Fraser's Fallschirmjager article in issue one where the photos are used to back up the authors research and work.

PIN WASH POINTERS

I bought your first issue recently, and I can honestly say what a great mag. It makes a change to see a magazine that caters for experienced modelers as well as the novice, keep up the good work. I'm primarily a figure modeller, although I do dabble in AFV's now and again. With the advent of the Internet, I have found that my reference library has got smaller, with all the information instantly available. The reason why I write is to inform people of an excellent reference site for all WW11 German uniform references (axishistory.com).
This site also covers other axis forces equipment as well. Also, would it be possible for an article on different painting techniques, my son has just started in the hobby, but doesn't understand what the difference is with filters and pin washes etc.

Nick (ex RAFP) via email

Ed says; ***Thanks for the tip on the website, I've had a look and it is full of very useful historical facts a figures.***
To answer the question of washes and filters, basically a filter is a very heavily thinned enamel paint colour wash. The thinner to paint ratio should be around 90/10. enamel paint and either enamel thinners or white spirits is the generally excepted medium for this process. This effect is used to change the overall hue or tone of a models surface. Where as a pin wash is usually done with oil paints thinned with white spirits applied just around certain details, i.e. bolt heads, panel lines or screw holes etc with a thin brush for accuracy.

BUDGET BUILDS

Well I have just read the first two magazines and will be taking a subscription!
I have been an on/off armour modeller for some time (along with real and what-if aircraft and the occasional 1:25 American car). If MMI continues as the first two then I see me spending a lot more time on my 1:35 armour... in a word, inspirational.
Really enjoyed the editors' piece on building/detailing/painting the Custom Dioramics Town House, hopefully there will be more of this type of 'step-by-step' articles. I have some older and more recent Verlinden plaster/resin diorama sets and whilst I have always built/painted them quite well, I have always come-up-short on adding the finishing touches; hopefully future articles will help me with this!
I'd like to ask/suggest two topics that you may have already thought about...
A one or two page 'beginners guide' to various techniques – applying pigments/weathering powders, mixed media kits, metal tracks (the 'pinning' article in issue 1 was VERY helpful), weathering figures, accessorising vehicles etc.
The second – perhaps more dear to my heart – would be revisiting older kits and updating them. Until recently Tamiya offered the only injection moulded M41 Walker Bulldog & M551 Sheridan around, as far as I know they still have the 'only-game-in-town' for the M42 Duster & M3 Grant. Whilst the Italeri 'Beep' & Puma have now been superseded there are still plenty around for very little monies and which could form the base for a really good 'budget' project. Remember not all of us can afford to throw twenty-five quid at a set of metal tacks for every kit in the stash!
Looking forward to the coming issues with some anticipation!
Keep 'em coming

Ian Jackso

WRITE TO:
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Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574 Email:editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

***Ed Says;* opefully Fraser Gray's article on the Trumpeter KV-I was just the type of thing you were hoping for, admittedly he did chuck on a set of £25 tracks, but this aside I hope the article proved helpful?**

OIR MASTER PLAN

After receiving issue #2 I was happy that it was as good as issue #1. I like the way the magazine is laid out and the fact that it has both kit and book reviews. Keep up the good work. I only have one minor nitpick to bring up and that is more aimed at two of the articles. In both Mike Rinaldi and Phil Stutcinskas's articles, as they were describing a particular weathering technique they sometimes didn't go into detail about how they did it and instead said that it was described in an earlier issue of TMMI. Both articles were informative but not all of us have seen those past articles. Something you might want to pass on to your article authors. Like I said a minor point.

Jim Guld via email

***Ed says;* As the TMMI is our sister magazine it is a ploy by our publishers to make you by more magazines, apparently the next trick will be to produce the magazine in special ink that soaks into your skin and drugs you into taking out a subscription for both mags!**

MODEL COLOR
AV
70941
148

SECRET SCOURING PADS

First, my compliments on an excellent magazine. TMMI has always been one of my favorite things to arrive in the mail, but now as a subscriber to Model Military International I have another great publication to look forward to, full of beautiful photography, gorgeous content, and very clear explanations.

Actually, there's another thing that TMMI and MMI have in common: both magazines recently featured articles by Mike Rinaldi in which he deftly portrayed paint-chips with the aid of an unusual kitchen sponge (MMI #2, "Winston's Wonder"). Mike described the "brush" in both articles but declined to name the brand or supply a photo. I'm hoping that you could provide either or both of these.

It's certainly a testament to my own obsessiveness that I'm asking for such information. However, you and Mike should understand that I'm just so impressed by Mike's results that I'd feel a little more confident having the optimum tool at hand if I to were to attempt a finish as nice as what he achieved with his Stug and Churchill!

Thanks for your help,
Andrew Wolff

***Ed says;* Mike is in the process of moving from the US to Germany at the moment, so he is out of e-mail contact for the time being.**
But basically a piece of Scotchbrite 3M pad is what he used, both Marcus Nicholls and I use this technique by cutting a corner off the pad and dipping in the paint, then remove the excess paint before dabbing on the appropriate areas.
The technique is also described on page 9 of issue 2 in the chips and scratches feature.
Unfortunately Mike didn't supply either a photo or the product name of the sponge, but the results will be the same with virtually any of these types of scouring pads available.

PRICELESS MODELLING

Good luck with your new magazine, I have studied the review of the US M10 and the King Tiger and would like to congratulate the modelers on fine models.

But with all that said, not in any of the reports or items is there the mention of price and the price is important to all modelers young and old, and you do not get much older than me.

How much would it cost to build the Sherman firefly to the conversion in your magazine? I would guess about £100 (lots of money)

Baz Lloyd

***Ed says;* Firstly the reason we do not list prices is because as an international magazine the price in pounds would be irrelevant to people from any countries outside of the UK, there have been suggestions to include UK Pound, Euros and US dollars for example, but if we do that we will get complaints from the people in countries we haven't included. So the decision has been taken to make life simple and not include any.**

BACK TOO BASICS

I read with great enjoyment issue 1&2. Its fun to be part of a magazine from its start.

I have some comments:

1. Your article are great but focus on the painting of the model. It will be nice to read more on the construction phase (the best way to cut from the tree, the best way to clean wheels or guns...).
2. Your models are work of art, but it will be nice to learn and to see mistakes with explanation how to avoid them.
3. You give your readers nice tips but occasionally you referring to your sister magazine. Well, I read this magazine...

It's a challenge to face different level of readers. I hope to see more for the regular out of the box builder.

Danny Goldberg, Israel

***Ed Says;* I did think we covered some of these basic building techniques with the Sherman BARV "Life's a Beach" article in issue one?**
Although the model was resin all the basic principles apply.
If I were to mention every mistake I made whilst writing my articles there would be no room to write anything else. Anyway mine mainly involve a trip to the first-aid box!
I will try and get our authors to include any they make but I'm sure they will deny they make any!

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past few weeks we have received lots of letters with suggestions for the content of the magazine, some of which have been printable! A few have been concerned that MMI doesn't turn into another modelling magazine full of Tigers and Panthers. I certainly don't want this to happen but the truth is that German WWII subjects are by far the most popular and that's a fact. This is easy for me to see by the amount of articles I get sent on modelling German vehicles, especially Tigers and Panthers, all of which are superb the only problem is choosing which ones to include, I just wish this were the same for Allied and Modern subjects.

I obviously want to have a balanced content for each issue, but the fact is we do have to cover German topics, because that's what the manufacturers are producing more than any other subject, and a large portion of the readership want to see them in the magazine.

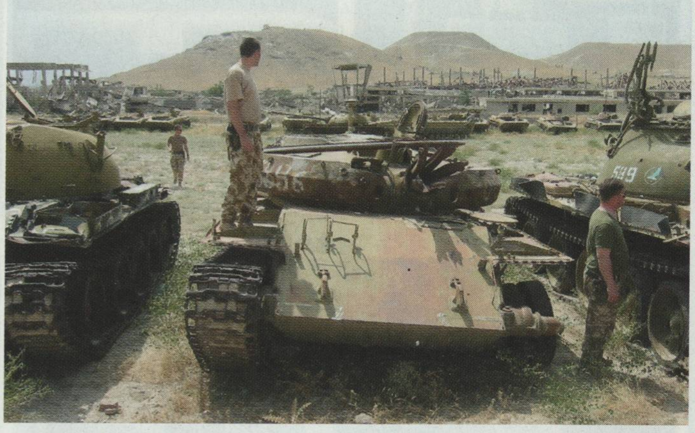
See you again on August 3rd!

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

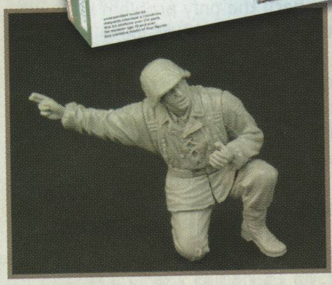
WE TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH THAT'S JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

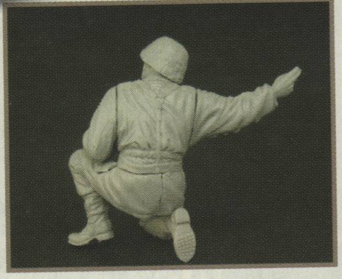
Having just gone through a load of my old war photographs I came across this one taken at the Kabul tank graveyard back in 2003. At first it was filed under happy snaps photos, but the more I have looked at it in combination with the inspiration I had gotten from Jimmy Ngo's stunning RSO in issue 2, along with Andy Taylor's incredibly realistic Afghan T55 seen on Missing-Lynx a while ago; I have thought what a great modelling and weathering subject this wrecked Soviet tank would make. At least I won't need to get an aluminium gun barrel and a will only need a single length of Friulmodel track?



Figures - A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...

HOHENSTAUFEN DIVISION NORMANDY 1944
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Gen 2
DRAGON

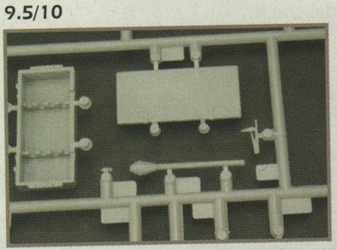


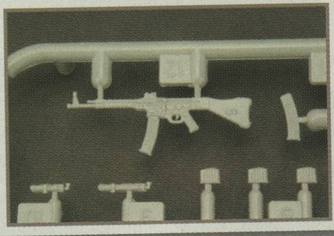


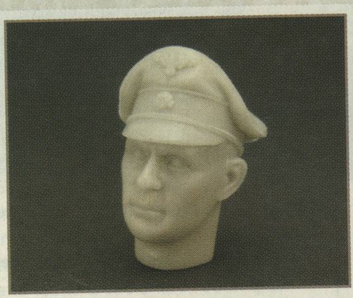
Dragon
1:35 Gen 2 figure sets
HOHENSAUFEN DIVISION NORMANDY 1944
ITEM No.6282

After my initial reservations concerning the fit of these very detailed, but in places overly complex figures, I've started to change my mind; this latest set of G2 figures are superb. The fit is much better and level of detail breathtaking, a wealth of spares including weapons, equipment and helmets both covered and uncovered are thrown in fo good measure. The Panzerfausts have separate firing mechanisms and a full set of decals. A stencil has been incorporated into the small-etched brass fret for spraying the markings on the Panzerfaust box lids. This etched fret also includes slings, belt buckles and medals. These are the best Dragon G2 figures I have seen to date.

9.5/10







SS PANZER OFFICER
DOGTAG
1/16 SCALE
MA2012
Assembly/painting required

Miniature Alliance
(Dog Tag fighting men)
1:16 SS PANZER OFFICER
Item No.MA2012

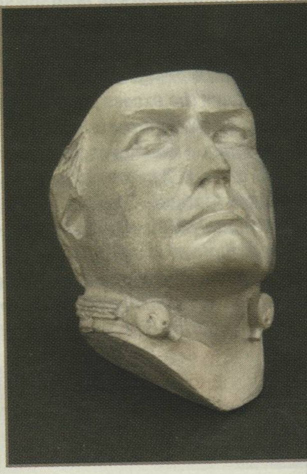
The first of two superb figures from Miniature Alliance this month is this stunning SS Tank Commander. He is dressed in the familiar late war two-piece "Pea pattern" panzer crew uniform and Officers field cap, he is portrayed consulting his map and compass; a nice touch is that the map is included on the full colour painting guide. The casting is excellent throughout and the sculpting is first class.
Highly recommended
www.minially.com **9.5/10**

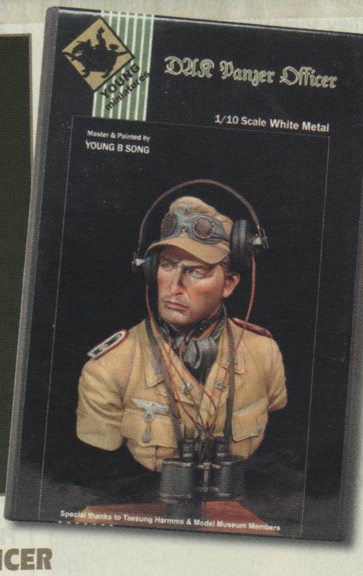
WARRIORS
WA 35567
USMC Command
Conference - Set #2
(2-figure set)
Map & Weapon Slings Not Included
Sculpted & Painted By Bill Chilstrom
1/35 SCALE RESIN FIGURES

Warriors
1:35 USMC COMMAND CONFERENCE SET 2
Item No.WA35567

Continuing Warriors long running line of WWII USMC Pacific campaign figures, the latest pair of figures depicts two officers consulting a map. Both figures are in natural and convincing poses and really portray the dishevelled and battle weary look of these Island hopping veterans. Expertly sculpted by bill Chilstrom; trust me the figures are much better than they look on the box top, the cartoon like painting doesn't do them justice.
www.lsamodels.co.uk

9/10

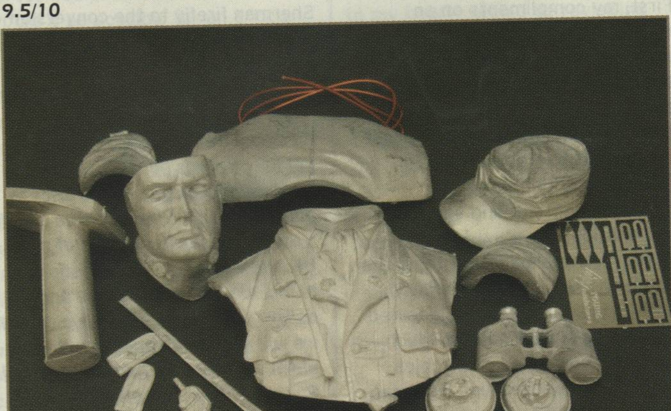


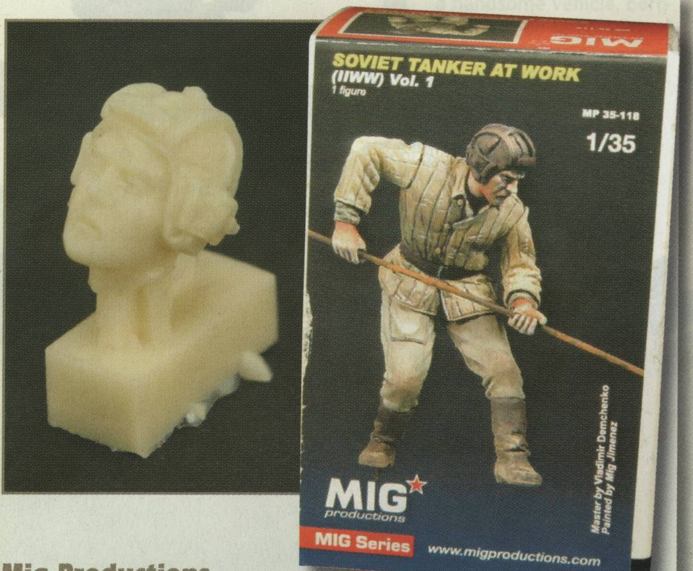

DAK Panzer Officer
1/10 Scale White Metal
Master & Painted by
YOUNG B SONG
Special thanks to Taesung Harmms & Model Museum Members

Young Miniatures
1:10 DAK PANZER OFFICER
Item No.YM1802

This is the first release we have seen from the Young Miniatures studios and what a delight it is too, this stern looking Afrika Korps Tank Commander is incredibly well detailed, the 18 white metal parts are flawlessly cast and require only minimal clean up. A small etched steel fret is included to make-up the more delicate parts of his headphones. To finish off, a length of copper wire is supplied for their connecting leads.
I can think of no better place to try ones hand at painting a bust, with inspirational box art, professional presentation and packaging we look forward to seeing more from Young.
www.historex-agents.co.uk

9.5/10




SOVIET TANKER AT WORK
(IIWW) Vol. 1
1 figure
MP 35-118
1/35
MIG productions
MIG Series
www.migproductions.com
Master by Vladimir Demchenko
Painted by Mig Jimenez

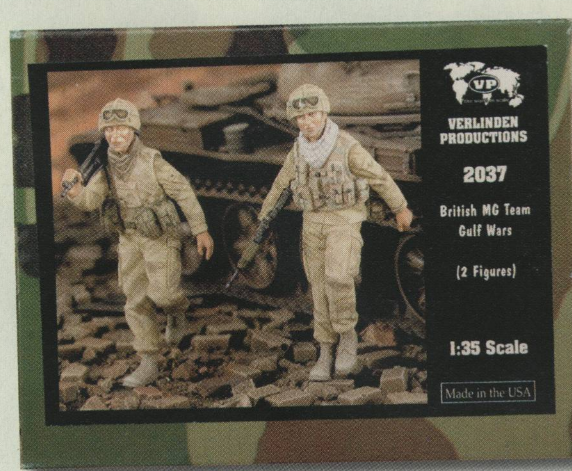
Mig Productions
1:35 SOVIET TANKER AT WORK
Item No.MP35-118

Taken from Mig Jimenez's prize winning diorama featuring a semi sunken Russian WWII Gunboat, this figure is now available to buy from MIG Productions.

Both the sculpting and casting are first class; this figure offers great diorama potential. He is depicted using a iron bar for leverage, mind you he could be playing a game of pool! But seriously it's nice to have a figure of this quaility that's not German or American for a change. Perfect for the Trumpeter KVs.

www.creativemodels.co.uk

9.5/10


VP
VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS
2037
British MG Team Gulf Wars
(2 Figures)
1:35 Scale
Made in the USA

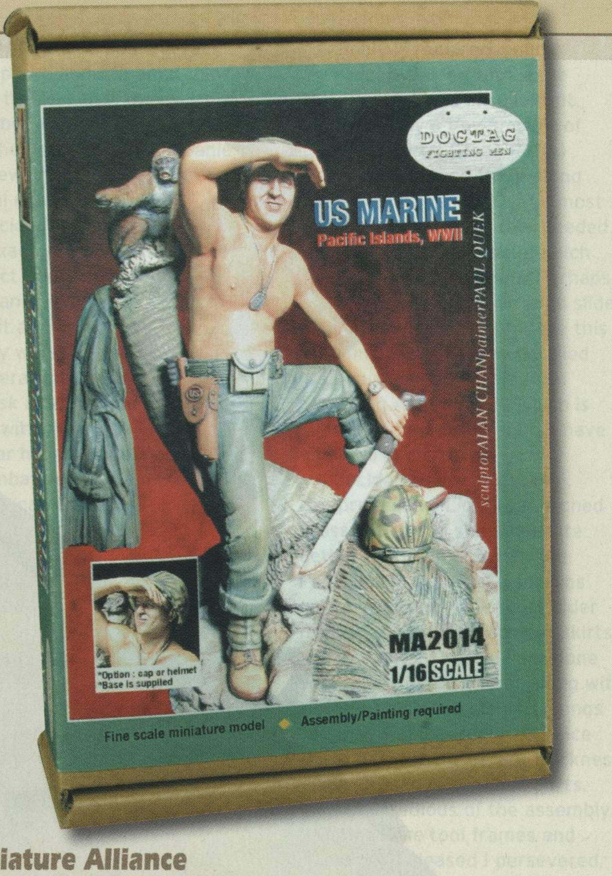
Verlinden Productions
1:35 BRITISH MG TEAM GULF WARS
Item No.2037

It's nice to have some modern British troops from Verlinden and although not a new release, we thought it would be good to have alook at them anyway. The pair are in Desert DPM clothing, one is carrying a GPMG over his shoulder and the other is armed with an L85A1 (SA80). The casting quality is without question; that said the pair just look a little odd and un-British like. There is nothing drastically wrong with either, but there are a few things I would have liked changed. Firstly I think the guy carrying the GPMG would have been better portrayed carrying it down by his side, Secondly the webbing pouches look too small, lastly their boots look more like standard black leather high-leg boots as opposed to the lightweight desert boots as per the painted figures on the box top illustration.

Not bad, but not brilliant.

www.historex-agents.co.uk

7.5/10

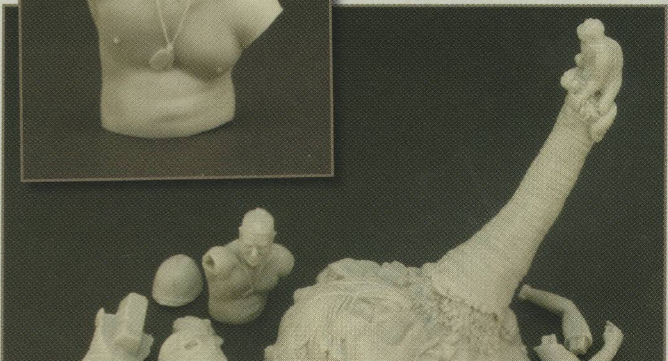

DOGTAG
FIGHTING MEN
US MARINE
Pacific Islands, WWII
sculptor ALAN CHAN painter PAUL QUEK
*Option : cap or helmet
*Base is supplied
MA2014
1/16 SCALE
Fine scale miniature model
Assembly/Painting required

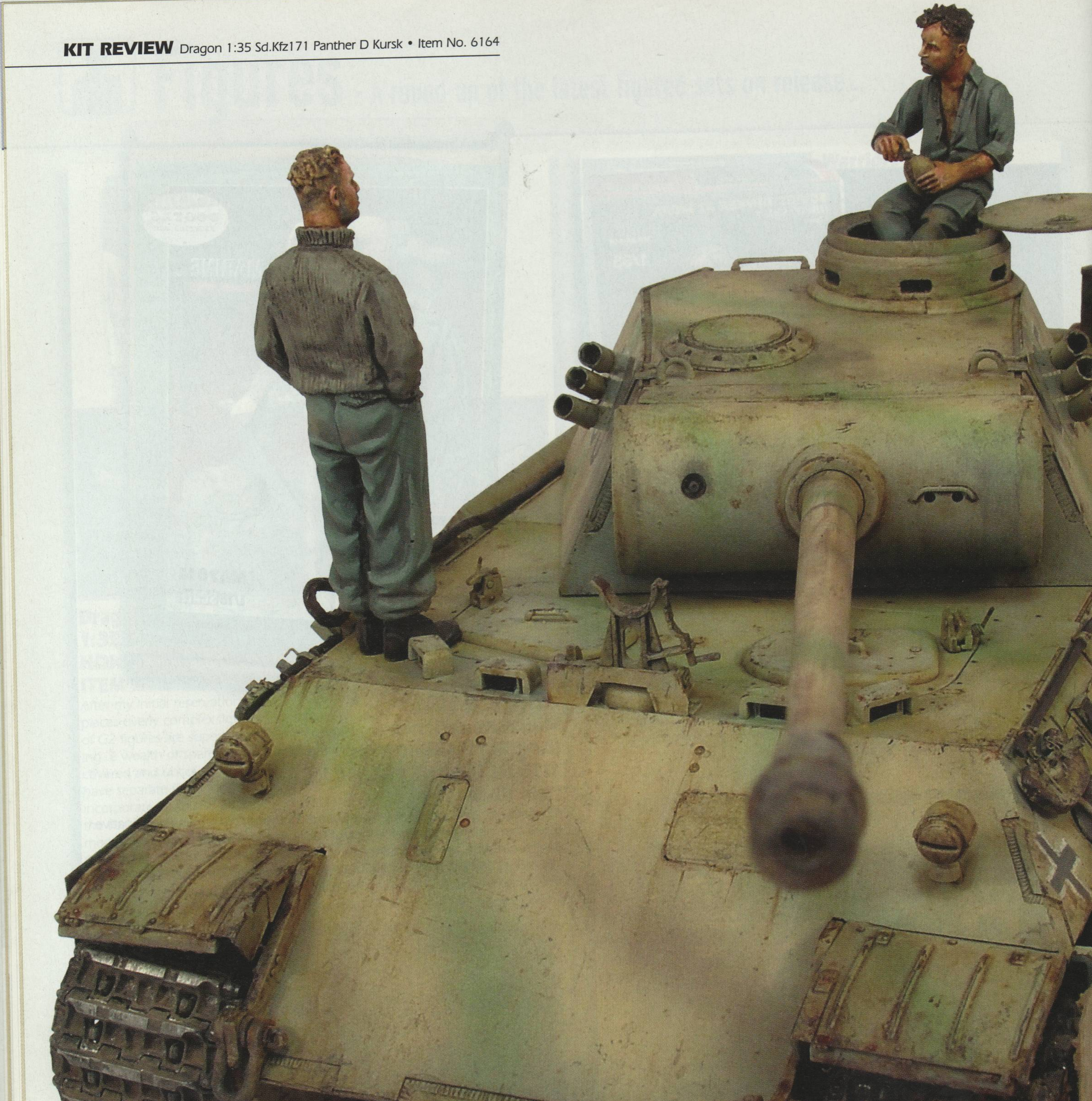
Miniature Alliance
(Dog Tag Fighting Men)
1:16 US MARINE PACIFIC ISLANDS, WWII
Item No.MA2014

Our second figure from Miniature Alliance is this interesting and imaginative figure complete with a small chunk of Pacific Island. This US Marine is depicted resting against a palm tree trunk with a fearsome looking M1942 18" blade Machete in hand. He is dressed in the standard two piece herringbone twill fatigues. Atop the palm stump a friendly monkey is pointing to something in the distance! A thoughtful inclusion is a chose of headgear, including Marine Corps fatigue cap or M1 helmet complete with cloth camouflage cover.

A great set piece and an interesting subject, which I think will prove a real joy to paint.

9/10





Photography by Lee lloyd

KURSK'D' PANTHER

Mark Neville Details Dragon's delicious Panther D.

The Panther is undoubtedly a handsome vehicle, born from a need to combat the menace that was the T34 faced on the Eastern Front in World War II. The similarities between the T34 and Panther are evident with the sloping design of the front glacis, sides and turret- quite different from previous more boxy German designs. The Panther has long been a popular vehicle with modellers in all scales, probably as popular as the Tiger. We've seen so many variants and versions over the years with huge amounts of reference to back up very accurate and detailed builds. All this said, I have never had the urge to build one, not even when Dragon released their first 'A' version several years ago to great reviews and praise.

Like many of us, I find certain wartime photographs a great source of inspiration, some capture the imagination and evolve into future modelling projects (most stay as 'virtual' projects with many of us, never reaching the workbench!) A series of private photographs I came across on the Internet did exactly that with the Panther, a vehicle that had never really held any interest for me suddenly caught my attention. The photographs had a great atmosphere about them, I think it was the fact that they were taken by one of the troops rather than the Propaganda Kompanie, the crews not posed at all, a real natural moment in time.

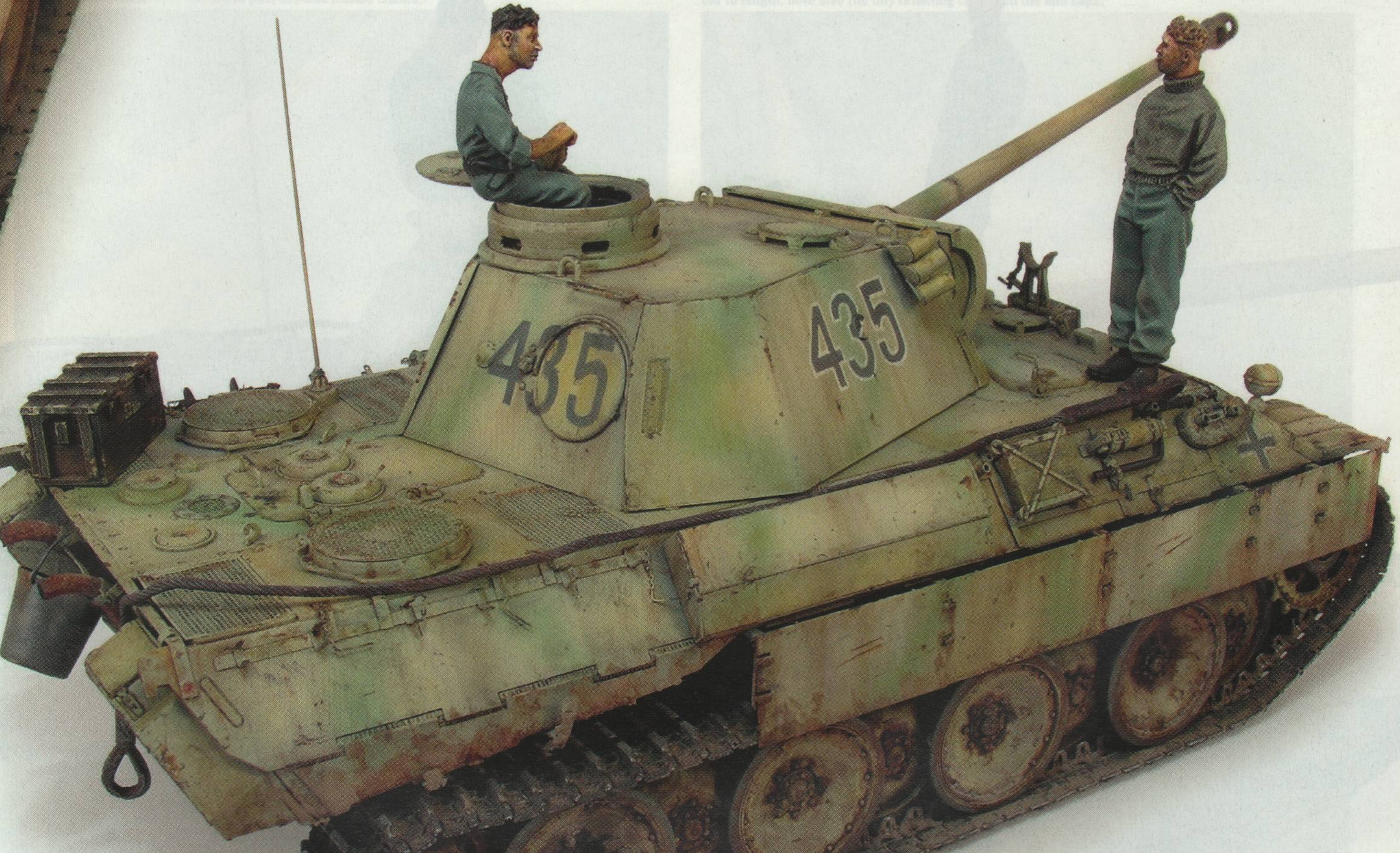
I decided I would have to build that exact vehicle as the photo. The fact that it was one of the first Panthers used in combat made it all the more interesting as they were hurried into service for Operation Citadel, the battle of Kursk in the summer of 1943. Along with the Ferdinand, the Panther hugely underachieved in its combat debut, many suffering mechanical failure.

This particular Panther D belonged to the 52nd Battalion, 39th Panzer Regiment. Studying the pictures and features of the vehicle I've dated it built early in 1943. Luckily, not even owning a book on the Panther, I called on the knowledge of some good friends from Tyneside IPMS who helped no end with reference to allow me to plan the build.

IN THE BOX

The kit is the Dragon 'Kursk D'. From the reference to hand I decided this was a very accurate 'D'. The kit, although some careful assembly is required, builds very nicely indeed with some terrific detail and excellent fit of parts- only a tiny amount of filler (Squadron Green Putty) was used here and there along with Mr Surfacer 1000. The most time consuming area that needed attention was the cupola, which is moulded in two halves. Perhaps Dragon now would have used slide mould technology to produce this as a single part. A fully detailed resin cupola is available from Modelling Artisan Mori, which is superb. In hindsight I should have invested in one.

I decided to use the very comprehensive Lion Roar etched brass set to add some delicate detail. The main areas on the Panther are the intake screens on the rear deck, the tool holder frames and the side armour skirts and brackets. These all are done very nicely by Lion Roar along with all the other brackets and fixings you may want to replace, a nice touch being the different thickness of brass used for various parts. The most tedious of the assembly tasks was the tool frames and clamps; I'm pleased I persevered, as the delicate look of the finished pieces would not be obtained with the kit parts. ▶



Other aftermarket items used are an aluminium barrel from Elefant, Mig Productions fan housings that are accurate for this vehicle, and the excellent Friulmodel white metal tracks.

Some details I decided to make myself were the front hatch retaining mechanism, cleaning rod holder (made from aluminium tube) exhausts (again aluminium tube, heated and bent around a simple jig) wiring on the smoke dischargers, and the tool box, which appears to be unique to the vehicle. This was made from plastic card along with some smaller items on the gun travel lock.

PAINTING

Planning the painting of the Panther I had decided the only way to paint the wheels would be to leave them separate from the hull. The wheels were fixed to some foam board with double-sided tape, along with the turret and the hull; everything was given a shot of acrylic automotive grey primer. I find this kills any contrast in colour with the different materials used on the model. The primer also gives a great key to subsequent coats of paint and a chance to do any final finishing or sanding.

Using the grey of the primer as a kind of pre-shade, I mixed some Vallejo acrylic 'beige' with water and began to build up the base colour using a random clouding with my Olympus airbrush, concentrating on the upper surfaces and highlighting panels to give a non-uniform base colour. I prefer to start with something light like the Vallejo beige for Dunkelgelb, it's much easier to tint and control.

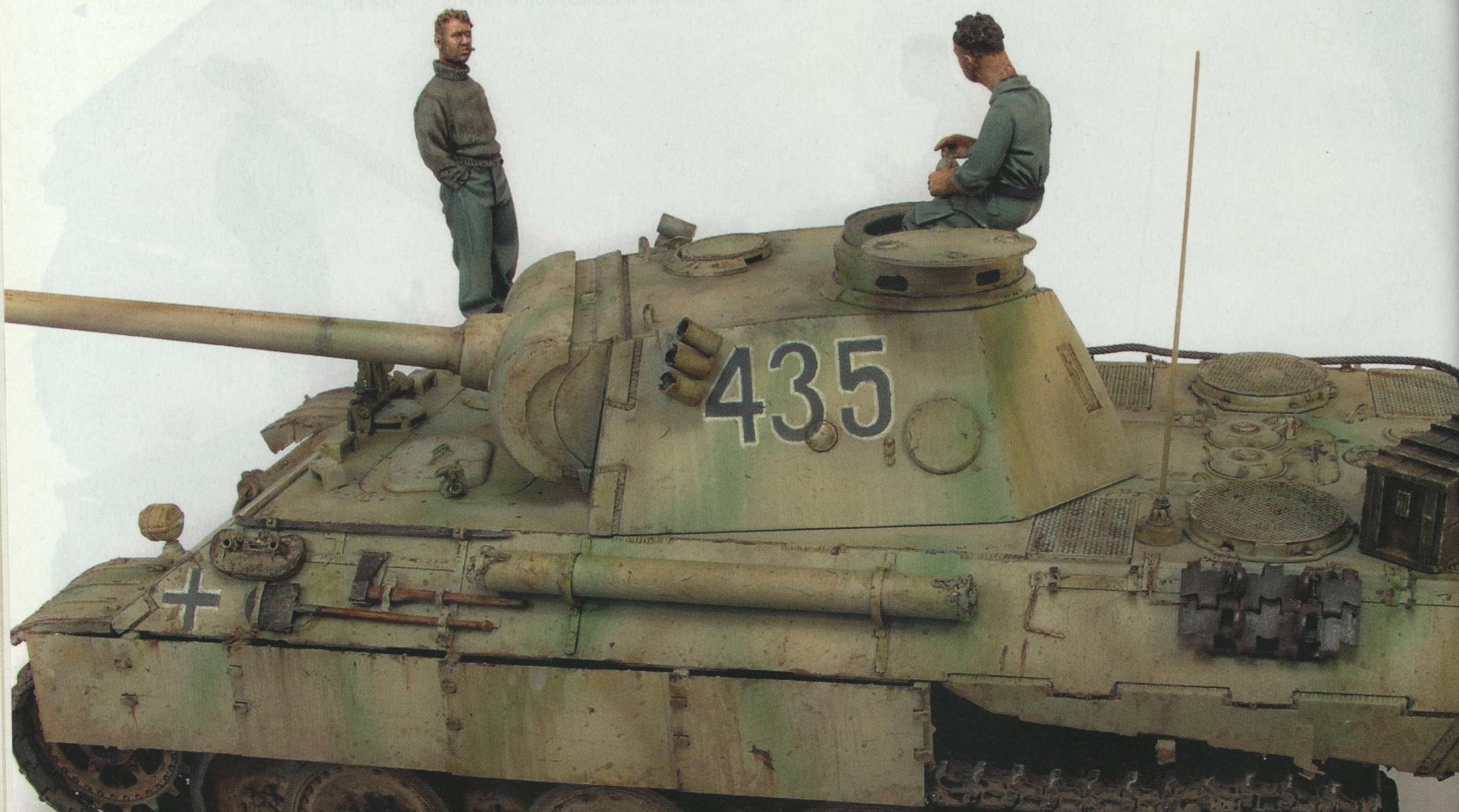
Next comes the camouflage pattern and working close to the reference photographs two colours appear to have been over-sprayed on '435'. I mixed the colours with Winsor and Newton Designers Gouache. Cadmium Red, Yellow, Permanent Green Middle and Lamp Black were mixed to achieve the olive green and red-brown. The gouache thins with water and sprays very well I just mix it with a brush on a pallet and use the brush to transfer paint into the paint cup of the airbrush.

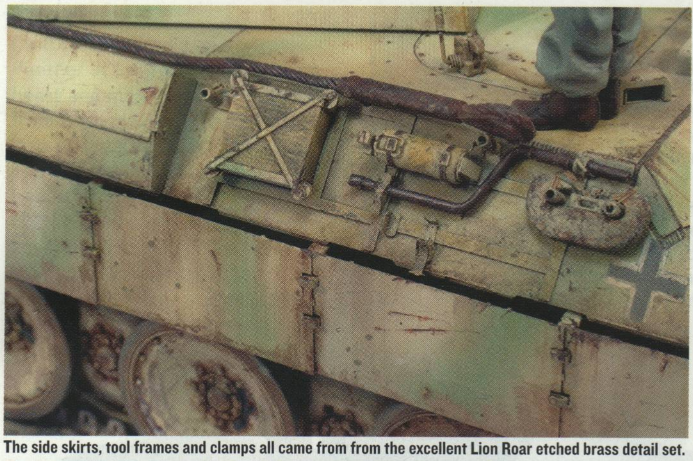
Markings were again applied with gouache, sprayed through masks cut from Frisk film and hand painted. The turret numbers were drawn over an enlarged version of the photo on computer. I like to paint markings when possible, finding they look far less stark in contrast compared to decals or rub-downs and are easier to weather. The tedious task of painting the road-wheel tyres was helped by using a circle mask and Vallejo Black-Grey. The wheels were then fixed to the torsion bar trailing arms to allow me to start weathering and shading.

WEATHERING

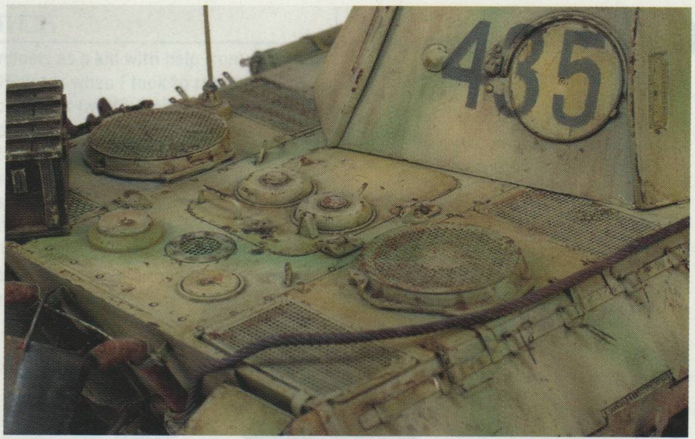
Tints of colour (or 'filters') can really add dimension, depth, and interesting realism to a model. I use Humbrol Enamel thinners and Winsor and Newton oil paints for this. Working on one panel at a time I wet it with thinner and work different colours gently into the wet thinner, varying the tones to bring out shadows, highlights and rain streaks. This process helps to blend the markings and camo together and allows gentle altering of the base coat colour - you'll end up with many subtle colours, far more realistic than a solid monotone hue. Small details can now be picked out with a heavily thinned oil paint wash (burnt umber and black) and a fine brush, time consuming working on each bolt, rivet etc., but worth the effort when finished.

Wear and tear on the paintwork in the form of scratches and scuffed surfaces is carefully added ►

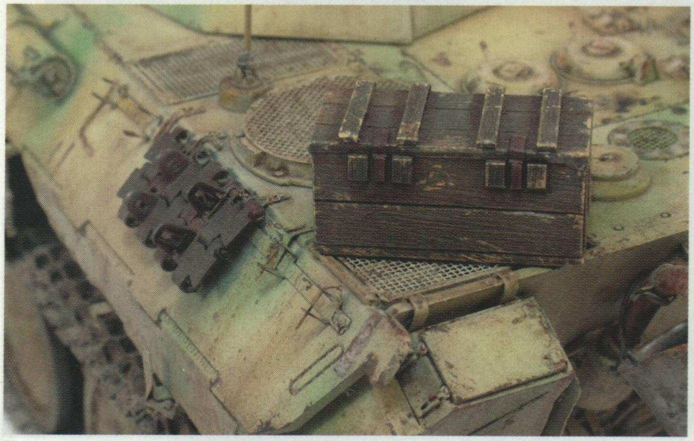




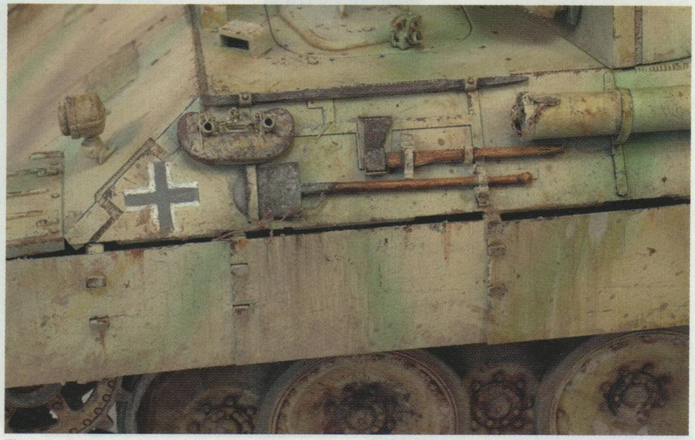
The side skirts, tool frames and clamps all came from from the excellent Lion Roar etched brass detail set. The kit parts are very good, etched brass offers that bit more in the way of finesse.



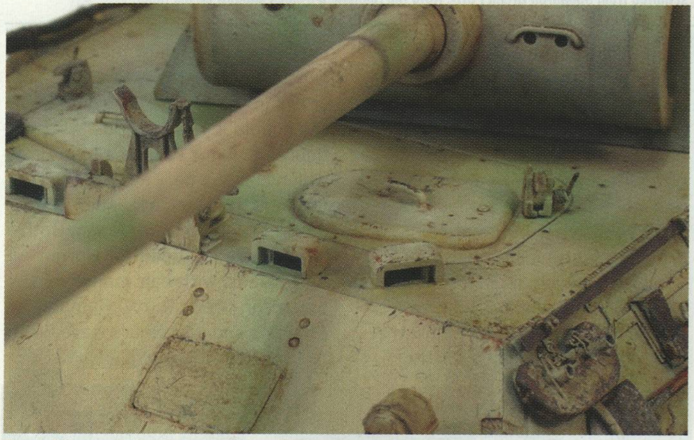
The turret numbers and Balkankreuz have all been either hand painted or sprayed through masks using water soluble gouache paints. The kit circular fan housings were replaced with Mig Productions items.



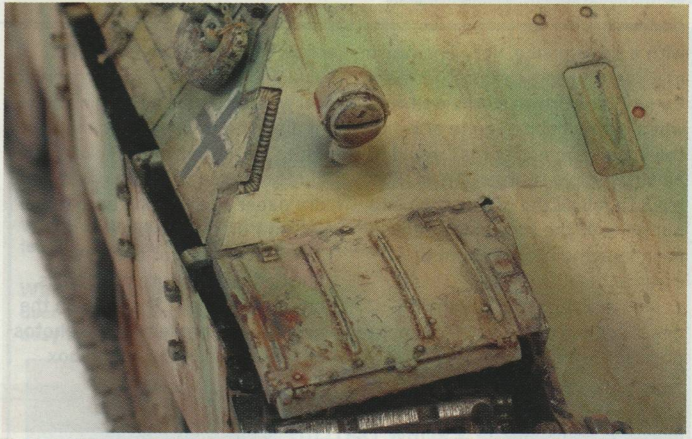
The spare track hangers also came from the Lion Roar set, spare links from the Friulmodel set have been attached and secured with tiny brass pins and and etched chains.



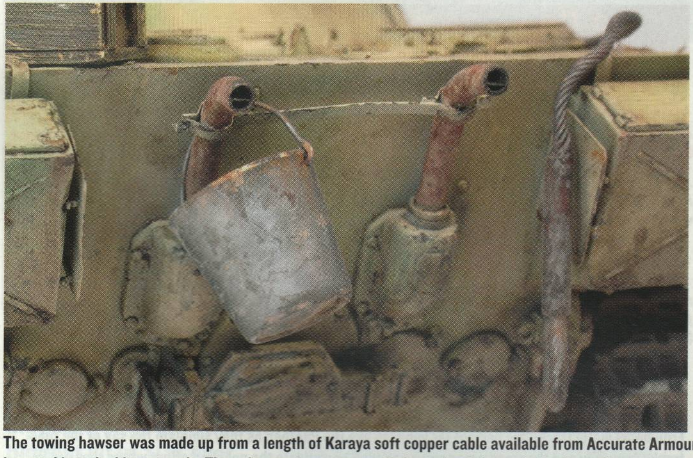
The gun cleaning rod stowage cylinder was scratch built by the author using a length of aluminium tube cut to length, note also the tiny retaining chains on the end caps.



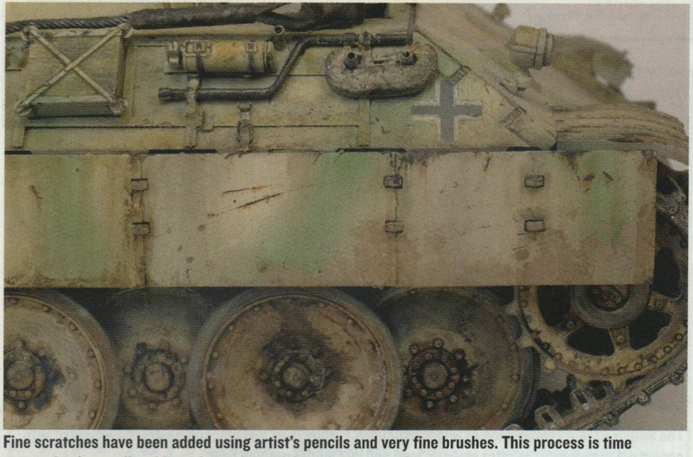
Very subtle streaks have been applied to all the vertical and sloping surfaces using heavily thinned washes of enamel thinners and Winsor and Newton oil paints.



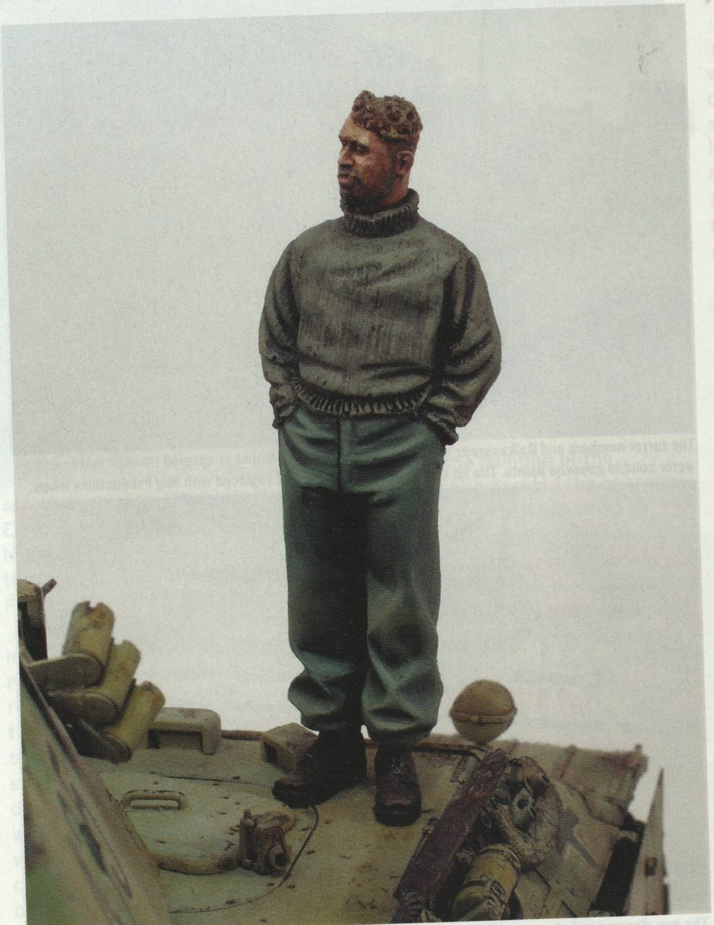
The tiny random scratches on the front fenders were achieved using Vallejo German Camouflage Black Brown dabbed on carefully with a small piece of torn off sponge, as shown on the letters page.



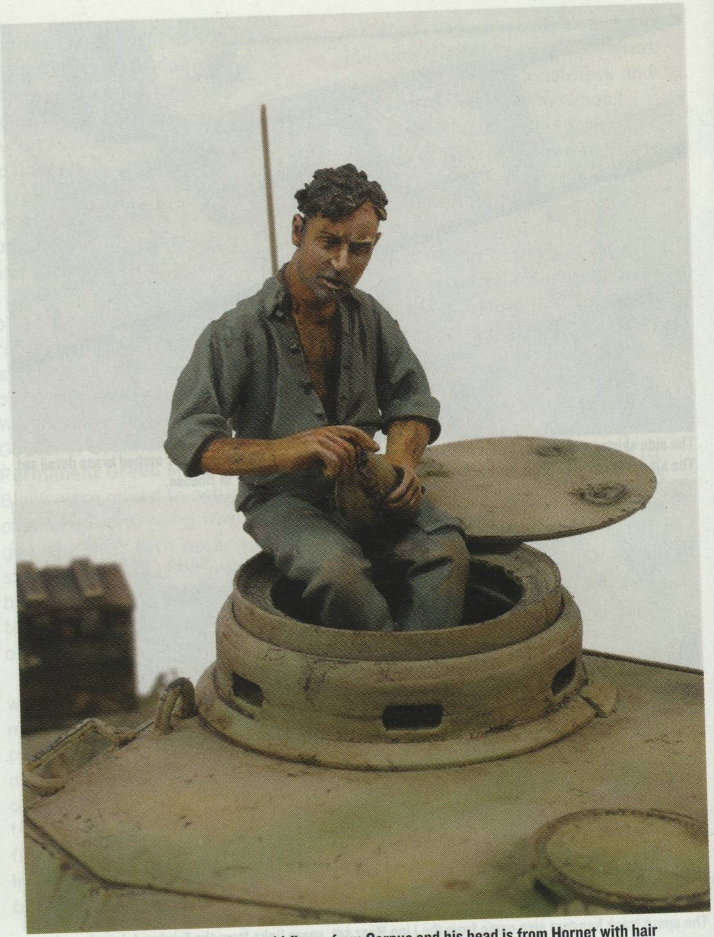
The towing hawser was made up from a length of Karaya soft copper cable available from Accurate Armour, inserted into the kit part ends. The exhaust pipes were made from aluminium tube by the author.



Fine scratches have been added using artist's pencils and very fine brushes. This process is time consuming but really adds to the realism of the finished model.



The casual looking figure is from Yoshi available from Inwood Miniatures, Japan. as with the figure to the right he has had a Hornet head transplant.



The figure sitting in the cupola is an old figure from Corpus and his head is from Hornet with hair sculpted from Squadron Green Putty. Note the realistic 5 o'clock shadow on his face.

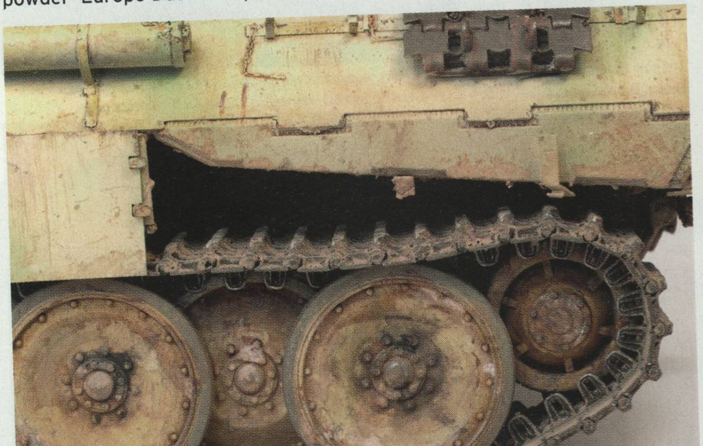
with a torn sponge, very fine brush and sharp pencils. Vallejo German Camo Black Brown works well when gently dabbed quite dry with the sponge on edges that would be susceptible to wear. Again, I've tried to follow the photograph and not go over the top, as the vehicle hasn't seen a huge amount of combat.

Mud and dust on the running gear is achieved with MIG pigment powder 'Europe Dust' and pastel chalk in various colours, both applied dry and mixed with acrylic gel where there is heavy build up of dirt. The tracks (being made of white metal, individual links) were lightly sanded with some wet and dry paper to allow the bare metal to show on the treads.

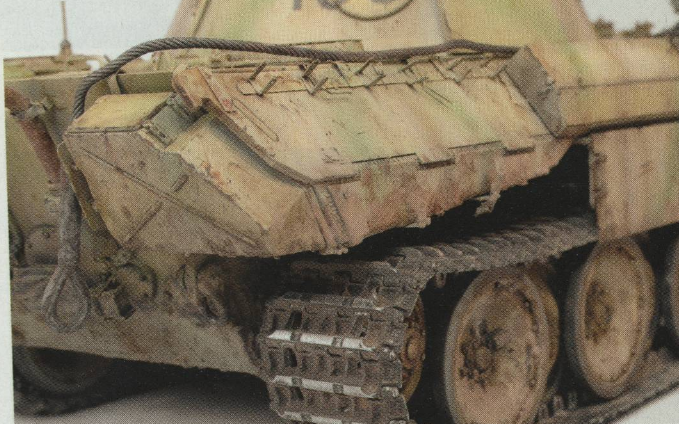
Various items of detail were finished in a mixture of acrylics, oils and enamels. Stowage on the vehicle isn't present in the photos- all I've added is the ammo box from Precision Models and a tow cable from Karaya.

FIGURES

Figures are so important to bring life and scale to a model, I find when looking at someone's work your eye is automatically drawn to figures, and then the vehicle. They can make or break a model in my opinion. I haven't chosen these figures to follow the reference photos, more for the casual appearance of the uniforms, which captures the look of the crews in the photos. The guy in the cupola is from Corpus, whose figures I've not seen in a long time, which is a shame. The standing figure is by Yosci, available from Inwood Miniatures of Japan. Both heads were swapped for Hornet bare heads, with hair made from Squadron Green Putty. Humbrol Enamels and oil colours were used to finish the figures.



The author used a combination of Mig Productions Europe Dust pigment and pastel chalks mixed with acrylic gel to recreate the ultra realistic mud and dirt on the running gear.



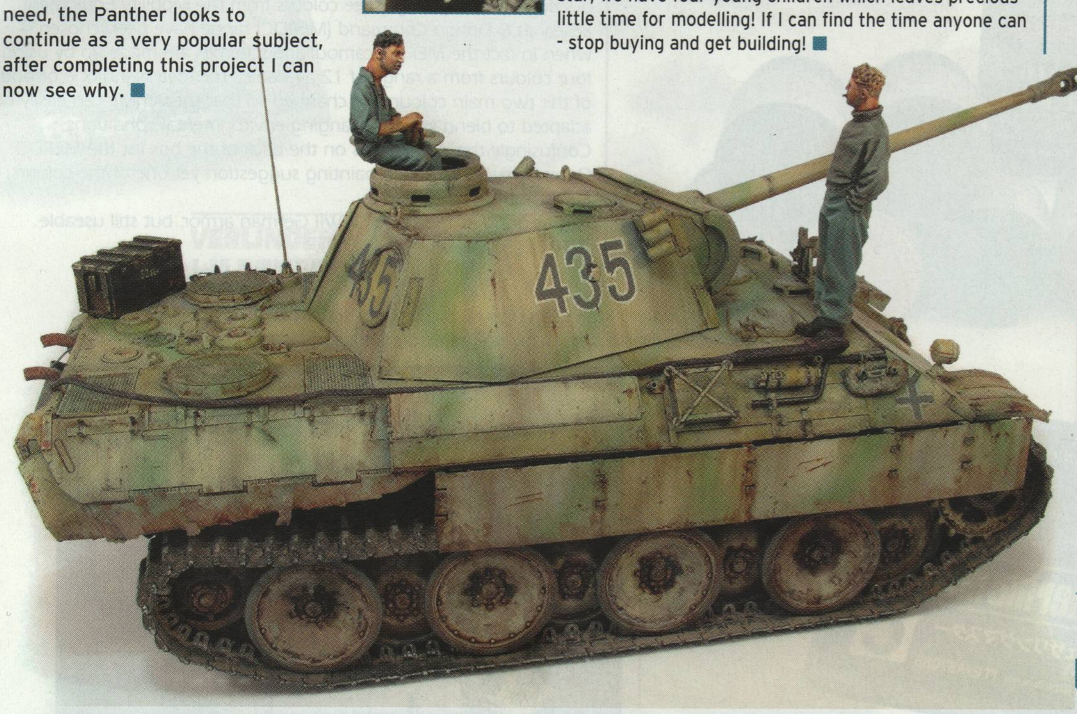
Friulmodel metal tracks are perfect for vehicles like the Panther, as they simulate the sag of the real tracks faithfully and the tread areas can be sanded to simulate the polished effect where they are in contact with the ground.

CONCLUSION

I will certainly build another Panther in future. A great looking beast and many versions available from Dragon and Tamiya in 1:35, also a recent release from ICM of a Bergpanther and Tamiya's 1:48 offering along with numerous 1:72 kits and more aftermarket additions than you could ever need, the Panther looks to continue as a very popular subject, after completing this project I can now see why. ■

MEET THE AUTHOR

I started building models as a kid with help from dad, had a break of around 15 years when I took to restoring and hot-rodding air-cooled VWs (which I still enjoy). I hunted down IPMS Tyneside which was the club I attended as a kid - great bunch of incredibly talented guys. I enjoy building mainly German armour in 1:35 but like a change with Allied subjects now and then.
I've been married 11 years to Jackie who is an absolute star, we have four young children which leaves precious little time for modelling! If I can find the time anyone can - stop buying and get building! ■



Modelspec

1:35 Dragon Sd.Kfz171 Panther D Kursk Kit No. 6164

Materials

Injection moulded grey styrene, waterslide decals included, Injection moulded individual track links.

Paints used

Halfords Grey Primer.
Vallejo Model Colour; 917 Beige, 822 German Camo Black, 862 Dark Grey.
Winsor & Newton Artists Oils; Burnt Umber, Black, White, Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber.
Winsor & Newton Designers Gouache; White, Lamp Black, Golden Yellow, Permanent Green, Middle, Cadmium Red Deep, Raw Sienna.
Mig Productions pigment; P028 Europe Dust.

Accessories used

Elefant 'Panther' turned aluminium barrel, Friulmodel Early Panther track, Lion Roar Panther D Etched metal detail set, MIG Productions Panther D Kursk fan housings.

References

Panzer Tracts No 5-1, Panther Ausfuerung D ISBN 0-9708407-8-0
Schiffer, Germanys Panther Tank the quest for combat supremacy ISBN 0-88740-812-5

✓ Excellent fit of parts and accurate detail.
✗ Coloured photographic instruction plans, torsion arms moulded in position on the hull, Two piece cupola needs work.

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All good hobby shops

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

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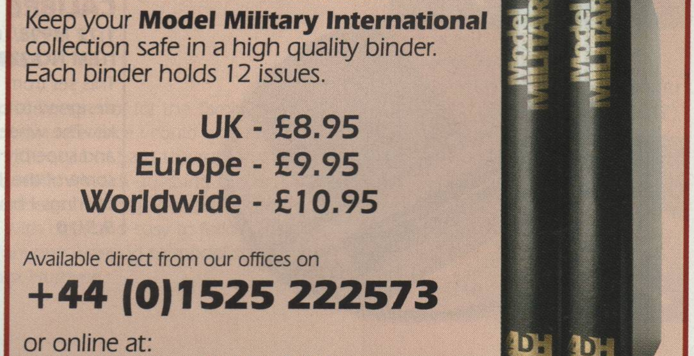
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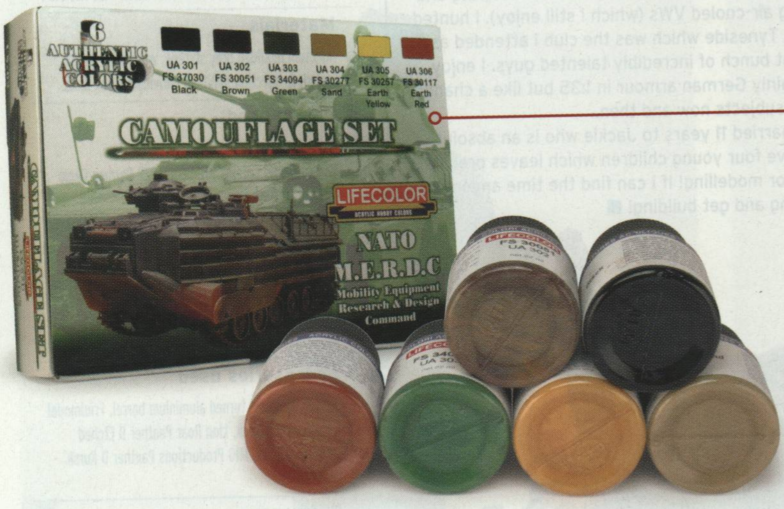

6 AUTHENTIC ACRYLIC COLORS
UA 301 FS 37030 Black
UA 302 FS 30051 Brown
UA 303 FS 34094 Green
UA 304 FS 30277 Sand
UA 305 FS 30257 Earth Yellow
UA 306 FS 30117 Earth Red
CAMOUFLAGE SET
LIFECOLOR
NATO M.E.R.D.C Mobility Equipment Research & Design Command

LIFECOLOR

CAMOUFLAGE SET NATO M.E.R.D.C COLOURS
ITEM NO. CS-02

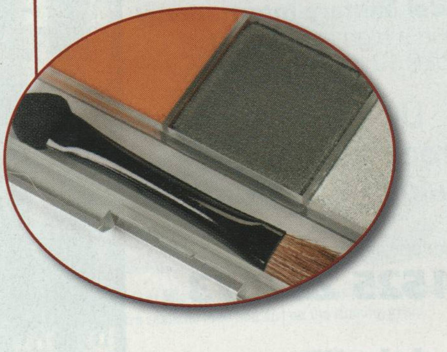
I can't quite make my mind up about this set from Lifecolor; the quality of the Lifecolor paints is without question. What I am concerned with is the selection of the colours in the set. The NATO colours are ok; even if the green looks a little on the bright side. What puzzles me is why only three colours from the Mobility Equipment Research & Design Command (MERDC) range have been chosen, when in fact the MERDC camouflage schemes are made up by using four colours from a range of 12 available. The idea being one or both of the two main colours are changed so that the vehicle can easily be adapted to blend in with changing environmental conditions. Confusingly the instructions on the back of the box list the MERDC Desert grey scheme as a painting suggestion yet one of the colours, Field Drab isn't included!
Not as good as the set for WWII German armor, but still useable.
7/10

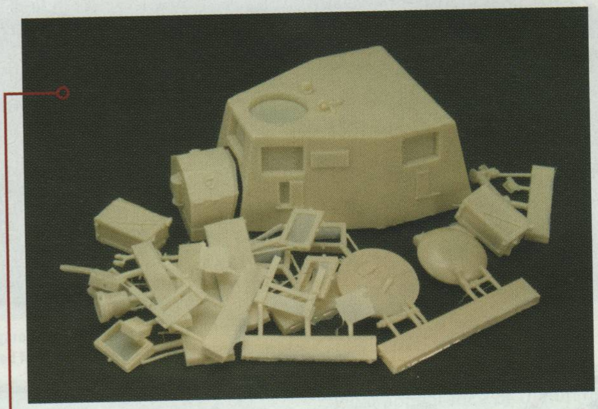
ORANGE RUST アカサビ
GUN METAL ガンメタル
SILVER シルバー
tamiya weathering master
タミヤ ウェザリングマスター
《Cセット》
C
ITEM87085
©2006 TAMIYA MADE IN JAPAN

TAMIYA

WEATHERING MASTER SET C
ITEM NO.87085

Not to be left out of the weathering powder market, Tamiya have launched their own range of weathering pigments. Unlike many of the other pigment manufacturers who grind their colours into a fine powder and are packaged in small tubs, Tamiya have gone for the make-up compact style. This set contains an orange-rust, gunmetal and silver. Supplied with the set is a small applicator stick consisting of a small brush at one end and a sponge at the other.
Having tried out the set, I must say they adhered well, but personally the pigments were too oily for my liking.
7/10

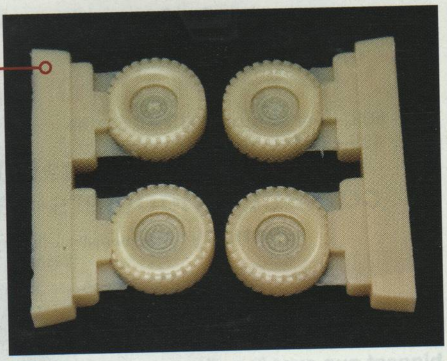




BLAST MODELS

1:35 IDF M113 NAG MAN II
ITEM NO.BL35053K

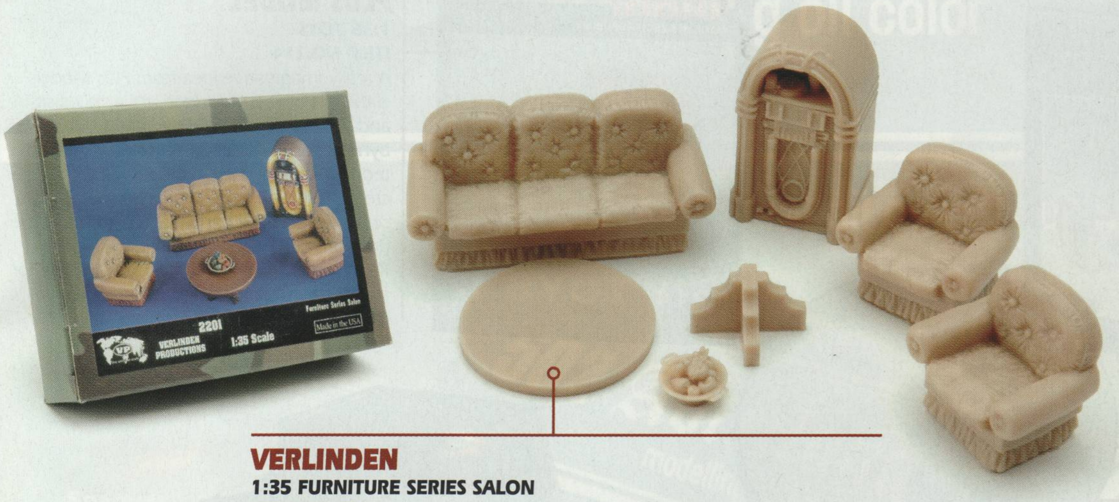
Blast have reproduced this very odd but very cool looking conversion to modify the Academy M113 Zelda into the strange looking Nag Man II with it's large armoured blockhouse on top. The set comes complete with some very good instructions and all the relevant parts to convert the Academy kit, including the large front mounted smoke dischargers, antenna mounts and a sheet of clear acetate for the armoured glass observation ports. Definitely a must for all serious IDF modelers, even if I do think the Nag Man I looks cooler!
www.afvmodeller.com
9.5/10



CALIBRE

1:72 M998/1025 WEIGHTED WHEELS
ITEM NO.72001

This set from the caliber 72 range are designed to upgrade the Revell Humvee kit. The wheels are exquisitely detailed and superbly cast, so much so they put some of the 1:35 scale Humvee wheel offerings I have seen to shame.
9.5/10



VERLINDEN

1:35 FURNITURE SERIES SALON

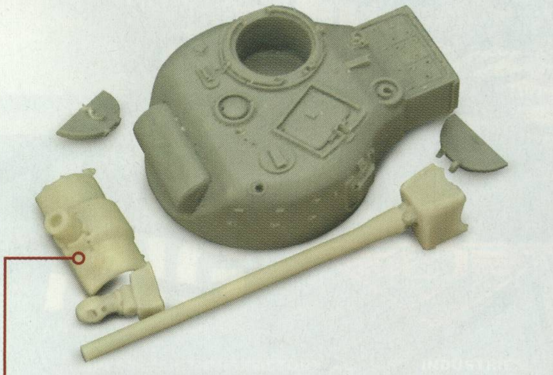
ITEM NO.2201

Released sometime ago, this is a very useful set from Verlinden for dressing any appropriate building on your latest diorama. The set comprises of a leather style three-piece suite, a coffee table and a Wurlitzer type jukebox.

A great set designed to save the modeler lots of time thinking of ways to fill building interiors instead of leaving them unrealistically empty.

www.historex-agents.co.uk

9/10



FINE SCALE FACTORY

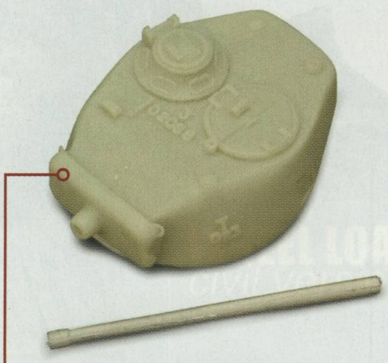
1:72 SHERMAN FIREFLY TURRET

ITEM NO.WZ65

New to us at MMI are Fine Scale Factory, which are producing a range of 1:72 armor conversions and detail sets. The first set is a resin replacement turret for the British Sherman Firefly. What is supplied is a complete turret, including gun mantlet and separate commanders hatch halves. The gun tube was nice and straight - something that can easily warp due to its thin diameter in this scale. The only disappointment I had was with the actual casting quality of the turret, our sample suffered from annoying air bubbles on many of the corners and smaller raised details that I feel would prove hard to fix.

www.lonewulfmodels.co.uk

6.5/10



FINE SCALE FACTORY

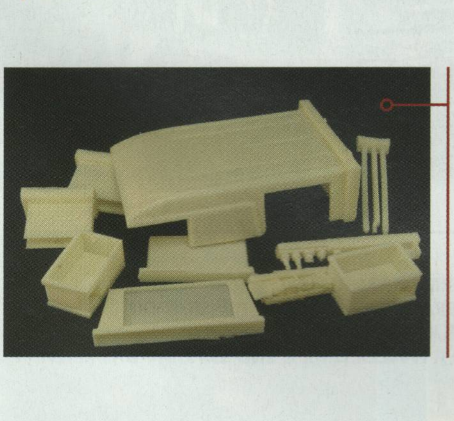
1:72 SHERMAN T23 TURRET

ITEM NO.WZ65

The second of Fine Scale Factory turrets we have received is the US T23 turret armed with the 76mm gun. With this set the turret is cast as a solid lump with both hatches closed. The only separate part is a white metal gun barrel. The cast texture on the turret is nice if a little on the coarse side, what I didn't think looked right was the height and shape of the commanders cupola and that the casting numbers are way over-scale, being more suited to a 1:35 turret.

www.lonewulfmodels.co.uk

7/10



PRO ART MODELS

1:35 US HARDTOP FOR HUMVEE

ITEM NO.PAU-35025

Pro Art provide a complete replacement roof for the Tamiya Humvee. Looking through my own reference I could only find one photo of a Humvee fitted with this style of hard top roof in the excellent Concord book on the HMMWV. I'm guessing this isn't a very common variant but nevertheless it's very well produced from imperfection free cream resin, with clear and easy to follow instructions making this set ideal for anyone wanting to model something different from the out of the box Humvee.

8/10

Coming Soon...

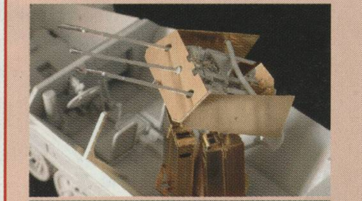
Mini Art
35034 1:35 SOVIET TANK AMMO-LOADING CREW

Adalbertus
New 1:48 Decals and accessories coming from Adalbertus will include...
A Siegfried Line set (road barrier)
US tank crew (June release)
Decals for Sherman I/II (75mm, Polish with big stenciled names on sides, "Acroma" etc.)
Sherman Ic ("Rycerz" etc.)
British stowage set (July release).
Cromwell tank, crew and stowage for the new Tamiya kit (August release)

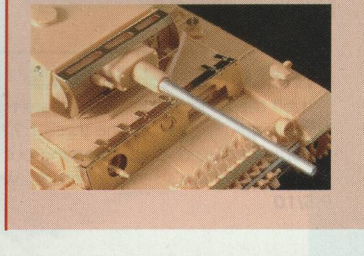
Resicast 1:35
ARV Mk I full kit
M4A4 full kit
6pounder full kit
M1 57mm gun full kit
Range field kitchen (conversion)
M4A4 Direct Vision full kit

Mig Productions
1:35 Toyota Hi-lux

Voyager 1:35
Photo-etch for AFV Club Sd.Kfz251/21 Drilling (Item No.PE35088)
Photo-etch for Bronco A34 Comet (Item No.PE35089)
Cleaning Rod for Tiger I (all kits) (Item No.ME-A054)

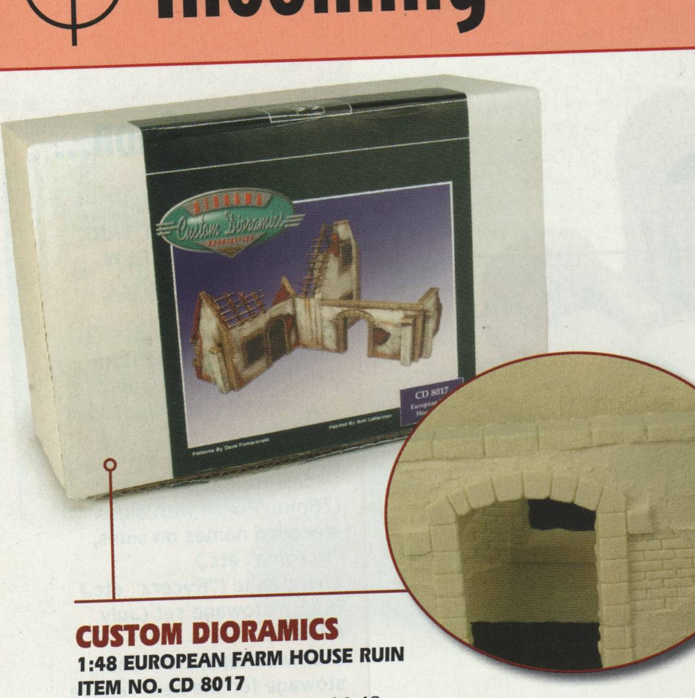


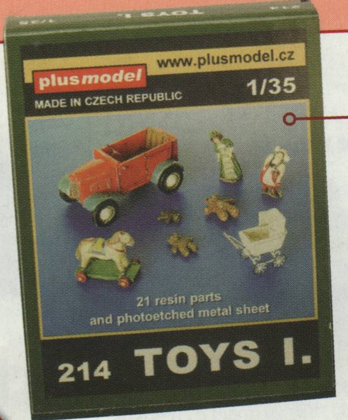
Voyager 1:48
Photo-etch for Tamiya Panzer III ausf.L (Item No.VPE48017)



Incoming

Reviews by The Editor & Keith Goldsworthy





PLUS MODEL

1:35 TOYS
ITEM NO.214

A really imaginative idea from Plus Models is this set of toys. Included are a childs sit-in and push along car, a dolls pram, hobbyhorse, and a small selection of dolls and teddy bears. All parts are cleanly cast in cream coloured resin; a small-etched brass set completes the parts needed to make the dolls pram.

Really useful; I wish I had this set in time for my Normandy diorama back in issue two!

8.5/10

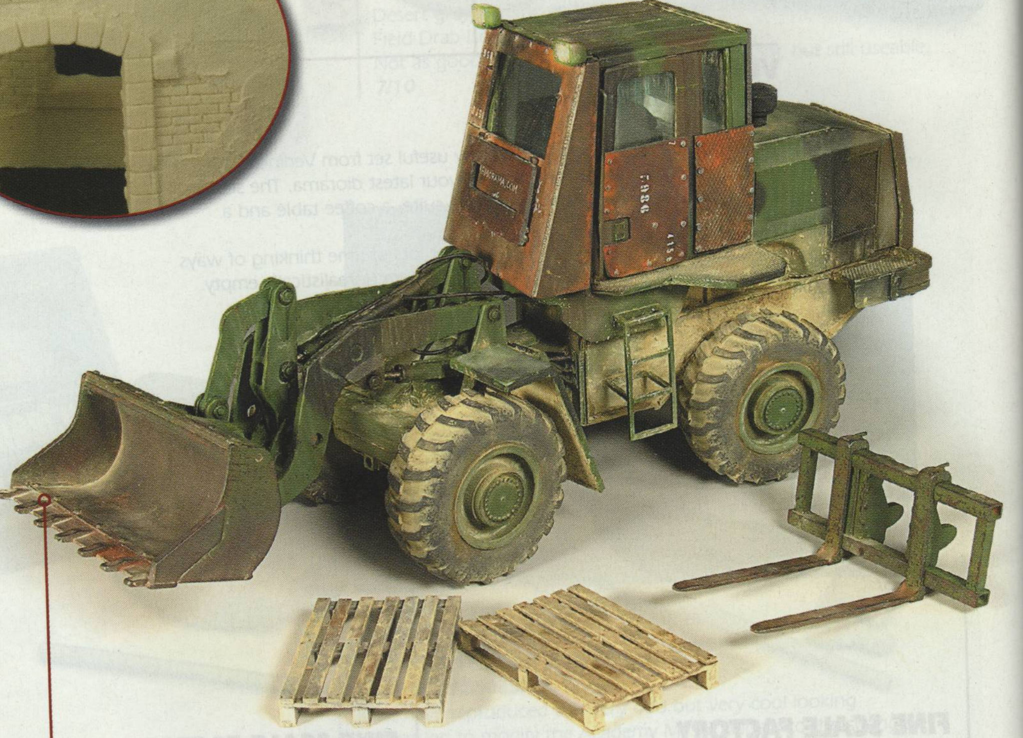
CUSTOM DIORAMICS

1:48 EUROPEAN FARM HOUSE RUIN
ITEM NO. CD 8017

Given the growing number of 1:48 kits on the market it is good to see the diorama accessory market starting to catch up. This house ruin is supplied in a cream-coloured resin and whilst not my favoured choice of material for buildings, it does allow for extremely fine cast detail. Unfortunately this detail can only be found on one side of each casting. The ruined nature of the building means that the inside walls will be seen and most modellers will probably want to resort to providing their own detail on these surfaces (end walls are detailed), something that would have been made easier if the castings had been done in plaster. There is a fair amount of flash material to remove, particularly from the roof truss sections and window openings. Overall, fine detail on exterior surfaces is let down by the lack of detail on inner surfaces. However the instructions state that the kit is to be used as a facade, viewed from the front only. *Keith Goldsworthy*

www.lsamodels.co.uk

6/10



MIG PRODUCTIONS

1:35 WHEEL LOADER NATO VERSION ITEM NO.N/A

Spanish producer Mig Productions are offering some really original products of late, and the next one to be released has lots of diorama possibilities. It depicts a typical wheel-loader vehicle, a high mobility digger that is used by the military for construction and clearance duties, and looks equally at home in standard yellow or camouflage colours. The kits will be cast in resin, with movable suspension, hydraulic arms and masses of detail. Military and civilian versions will be offered, including an up-armour pack for the cabin. Coming to a diorama near you soon! *Marcus Nicholls*

www.creativemodels.co.uk

8.5/10

LECLERC
SERIES 2 RT5 & T6
US ARMY's 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
TIGER I
PANTHER
ECHELON

ECHELON FINE DETAILS

Hot off the Echelon decals press are these four sets, all meticulously researched and beautifully printed. The three 1:72 sets are a welcome edition to the for the super detailed armour coming out from Dragon, whilst the 1:35 Leclerc are perfect for Tamiya's series 2 version. www.accurate-armour.com

9.5/10

ET35021 1:35 LECLERC SERIES 2 RT5 AND T6
ET72015 1:72 M1A1HA ABRAMS 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION OIF
ET72105 1:72 TIGER-1E PZ.ABT 502 & S.PZ.KP MEYER
ET72110 1:72 PANTHER D/A PANZER LEHR & 2ND SS.PZ.DIV DAS REICH

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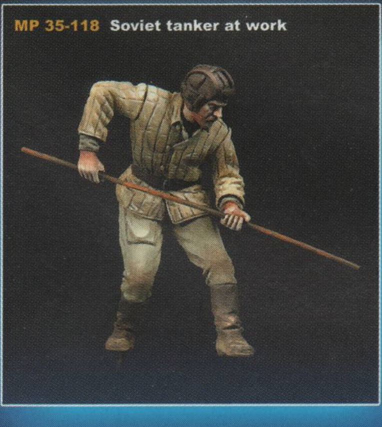
WHEEL LOADER
civil version

MP 72-096 European Industrial Wall
1/ 72

MP 72-097 German Artillery Crew
1/ 72

new full kits

Spanishmodelling



MP 35-118 Soviet tanker at work

MP 35-119 Observing soviet tanker IIWW

WHEEL LOADER
militar version

M47 Patton
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1:35 scale échelle
1 figure included
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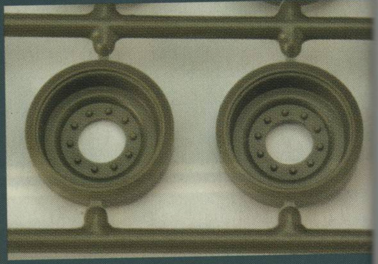
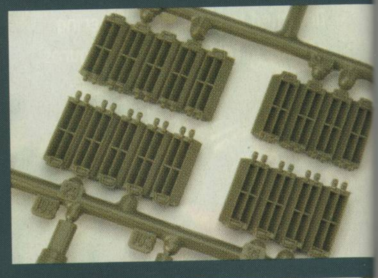
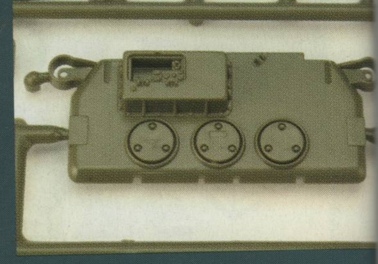
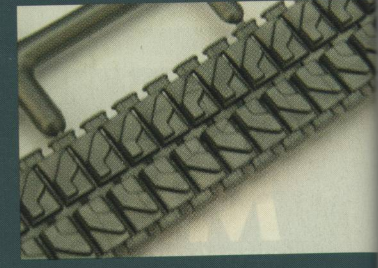
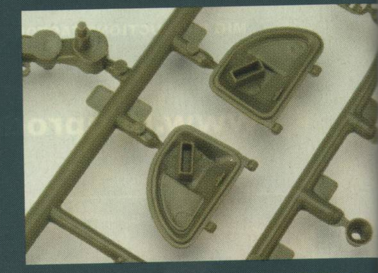
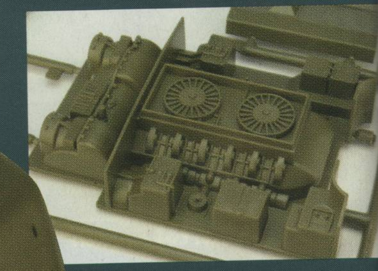


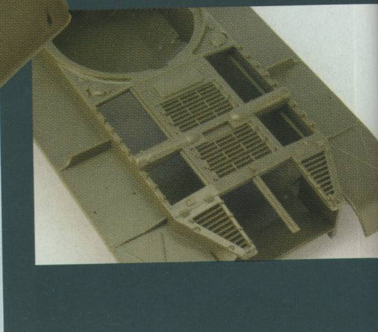












By Paul Egerton

HOLLYWOOD'S KING TIGER RE-ISSUED

The tank made famous by the film the 1965 Battle of the Bulge makes a welcome return from Italeri.

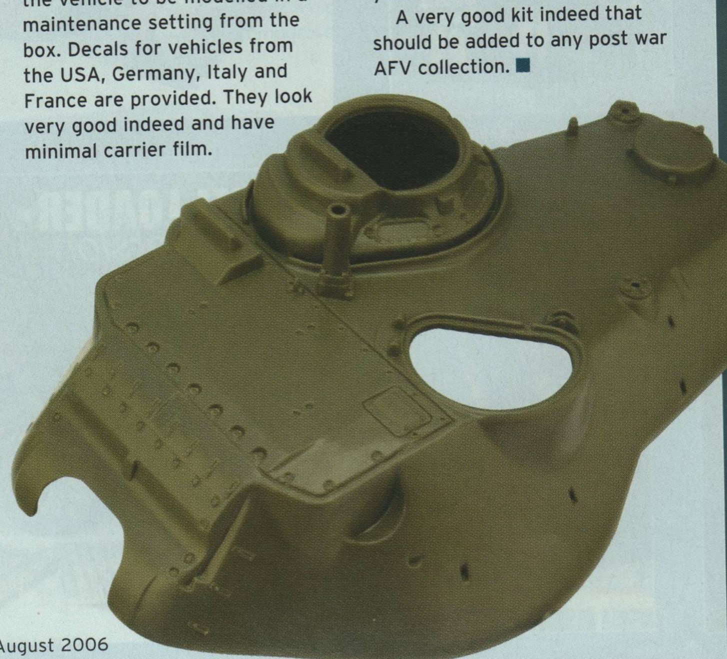
Unsurprisingly, post WWII American MBTs (M26, M46, M47, M48, M60 and M1) are well covered by the modelling industry and Italeri have chipped in with their excellent M47. Interestingly, the US Army didn't think much of this vehicle and after a relatively short service life it was superseded by the M48 and the M47s were passed to their NATO allies!!

Probably the most memorable highlight of this vehicle's career was in the 1965 film The Battle of the Bulge, where M47s took on the role as King Tigers to face Telly Savalas and his M24 Chaffees masquerading as Shermans!

This is another very welcome reissue from Italeri in their new blue and yellow packaging with eye-catching artwork. The moulding is very crisp with no signs of flash and the smaller parts (cleats, grab handles, brush guards etc) are particularly fine. Tracks are of the 'rubber band' variety but perfectly acceptable nevertheless. A single figure is included but is not a crewman and whilst adequate, is not up to the latest standards set by Dragon amongst many others. A huge bonus in this kit is the inclusion of separate engine deck air intake grills over a single piece moulding of the engine/gearbox/battery boxes – a very nice touch that will allow the vehicle to be modelled in a maintenance setting from the box. Decals for vehicles from the USA, Germany, Italy and France are provided. They look very good indeed and have minimal carrier film.

This is a very good kit indeed. Italeri continue to produce models of a very high standard and at extremely competitive prices. Whilst they may not reach the gold standard of Tamiya, they are a well-deserved silver and you can usually get 2 Italeri for 1 Tamiya – you pay your money and make your choice.

A very good kit indeed that should be added to any post war AFV collection. ■



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Buffalo Soldiers

The Editor continues with another two-part article this time featuring a British LVT4 and Diamond T tank Transporter. The first part describes the Italeri LVT build.

Dial 251 for Emergency

Wayne Timmo Converts Tamiya's Sd.Kfz 251/1D into the Ambulance version with the help of some resin first aid.

Quarter Scale Cruiser

Tamiya's new 1:48 Cromwell is a bruiser of a cruiser. Keith Goldsworthy tells us what he thinks of it.

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...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE No.4 AUGUST 2006,
PUBLISHED July 6th 2006

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Printed by;
Symbian Print Intelligence, Hertfordshire, UK

Distributed by;
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Devons Road
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Tel; 0870 240 2058
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Model Military International is published on the first Thursday of each month by;
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Totternhoe
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Tamiya's new 1:48 Cromwell is a bruiser of a cruiser.
Keith Goldsworthy tells us what he thinks of it.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE No.4 AUGUST 2006,
PUBLISHED July 6th 2006

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Printed by;
Symbian Print Intelligence, Hertfordshire, UK

Distributed by;
Odyssey Publisher Services Ltd
No.7 St Andrews Way
Devons Road
Bromley by Bow
London E3 3PA
Tel; 0870 240 2058
Fax; 0870 240 2059
Email; ops@odyssey-pub.co.uk

Model Military International is published on the first Thursday of each month by;
ADH Publishing
Doolittle Mill
Doolittle Lane
Totternhoe
Bedfordshire
LU6 1QX UK
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Subscription rates are;

1 year (12 issues);	£36 UK
	£47 Europe
	£55 Worldwide (Airmail)
	£44 Worldwide (Surface)

USA Subscriptions Agent:
Wise Owl Worldwide Publications,
5674 El Camino Real, Carlsbad,
California 92008-7130 USA.
Tel; (USA) 760 603 9768
Fax; (USA) 760 603 9769
email; info@wiseowlmagazines.com

Binders;	£8.95 (UK),
	£9.95 (Europe)
	£10.95 (Worldwide)

All prices include postage and packing.
For all orders, please call;
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THE COST OF THE HOBBY

The Editor vents his spleen on those who like to complain...

I'm really on my soapbox this month! Having attended a couple of model shows since the last issue, there is something I want to get off my chest - and that is those moaning modellers that constantly complain about the cost of our hobby. My case in point was a particular guy who claimed to be a modeller, but I think was actually one of the 'Old Gits' from the Harry Enfield sketch show, who's hobby was clearly not modelling, but was in fact writing and complaining about everything and anything, and the top of the list was, you guessed it, the cost of the model projects shown in modelling magazine articles.

In his view, they are too expensive, and that nobody can afford all the updates we throw at the models featured. In his opinion we do this as a flashy way to show off all the free stuff we get sent in. Well, in a way it is true - we do show off all the products, but it is not done in a flashy way! It is in fact the best way to showcase many of the minor update items that are perhaps too small to warrant an article of their own. As a modelling magazine editor, I feel that I have an obligation to promote, review and advertise to the readers the many excellent products and services available to them that they may not be aware of.

We are not forcing anyone to build their models the way we build some for the magazine, but merely informing the reader of what some of the options are if they decide to build that particular subject.

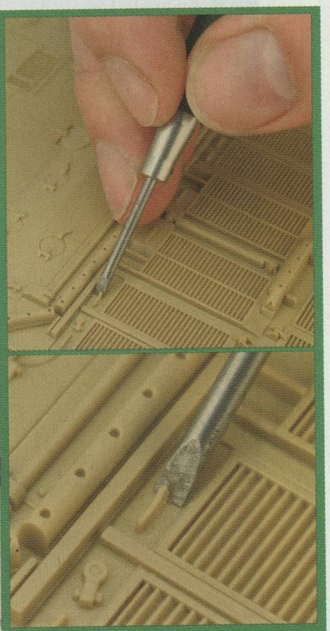
I think this hobby is as expensive as you decide to make it - yes, multi-media kits can be expensive, but if you stick to the more affordable brands the cost can be greatly reduced.

At most model shows these days there are plenty of bargains to be had, especially if you take a look below many of the club stands where you'll find the inevitable box of second hand kits for sale at give away prices.

For me, a good comparison would be the BBC2 motoring programme 'Top Gear', which I happen to really enjoy. I can't afford most of the cars featured but I still enjoy the tests and features and do not feel the urge to write in constantly complaining that the cars are too dear.

I actually don't think this hobby is particularly expensive. My years of playing with big boys toys (photography, home cinema, mountain biking etc.,) have proved just how inexpensive scale modelling is by comparison. Also, my father recently reminded me how expensive his hobby of fishing was, having just listed the prices of rods, reels etc., and during the eighteen years I raced Motocross I never had any spare cash, especially after the odd crash...

These days I really don't think there are grounds to complain about the cost of our hobby compared to many I can think of, so to those folks who think modelling is too expensive, I say "quit griping and get building!" ■



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Being in this privileged position I do get sent a lot tools to try out or get to keep and sometimes these tools just happen to be those things that you wonder how you lived without, whilst others are condemned to the 'never to be used again' drawer of my toolbox.

When I first received the Micro-Chisel from Mission Models, I did think it was just a glorified watchmakers screwdriver with a sharper tip. At first it did get sent to the never to be used drawer, until I needed to remove a moulded on grab handle from a tight spot. At first I was determined to use something from my trusty selection of old faithful tools, then after finally admitting defeat I dug out the Micro-Chisel, convinced it wouldn't work. But to my cynical amazement it was perfect for the job, it was at this point that I had a close look at the thing and really noticed the quality from the interchangeable hardened tips of varying sizes to the soft grip section of the handle.

With my hand on my heart I can honestly say this is one of those little tools that has made me wonder how I lived without it.

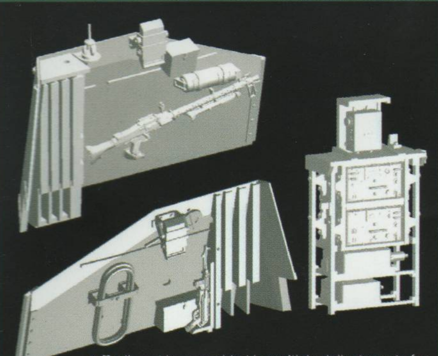
Available in the UK from Accurate Armour.

Or **www.missionmodels.com**

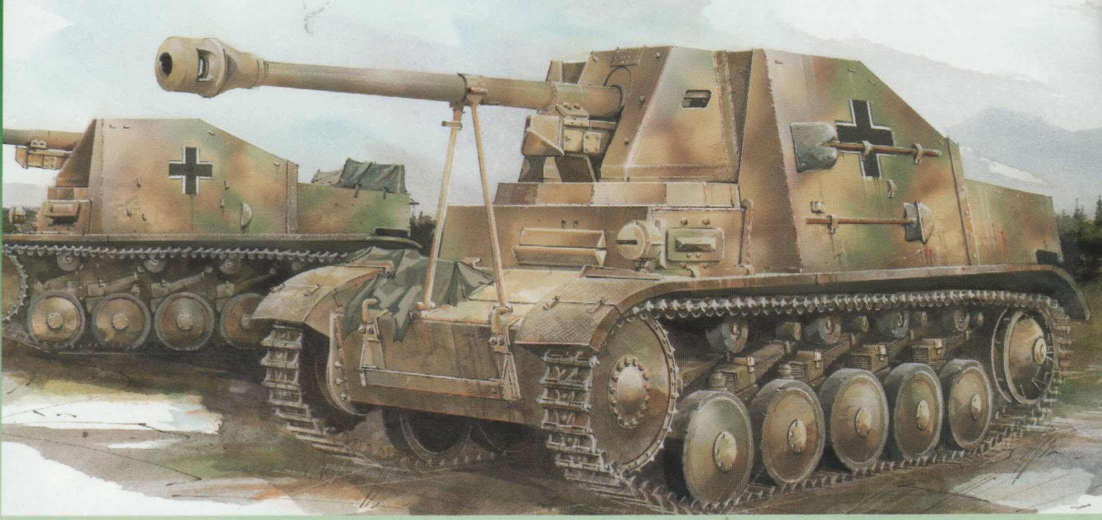
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

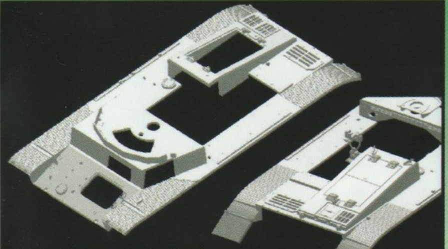
Sd.Kfz.131 Panzerjäger II für Pak40/2

"MARDER II"

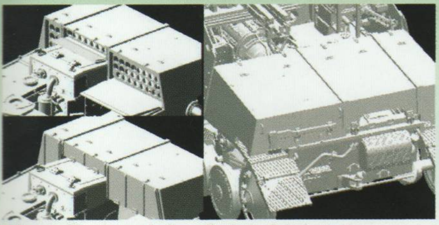


- Radio set is assembled in multiple delicate parts for exquisite detail
- Fighting compartment w/interior fittings: coolant exchange hose and headphone storage box

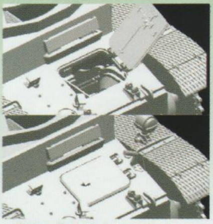




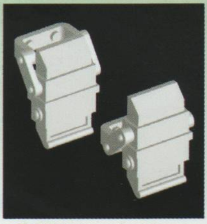
- Accurate upper hull w/fenders and engine deck in full detail



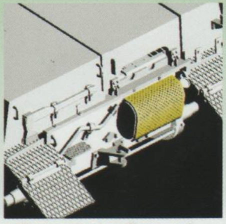
- Ammunition boxes truly replicated w/interior racks



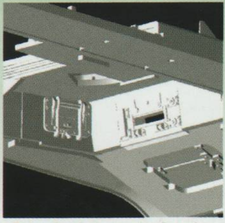
- Driver's hatch can be assembled open or closed



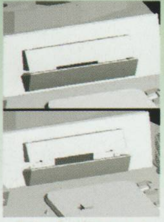
- Fighting compartment periscopes can be assembled in up or down positions



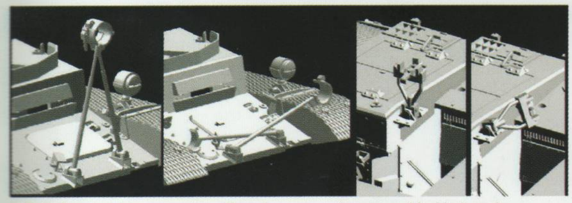
- Photo-etched muffler guard



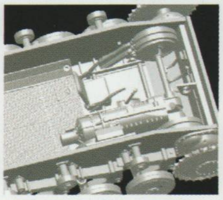
- Driver's vision port w/interior detail



- Driver's visor can be assembled open or closed

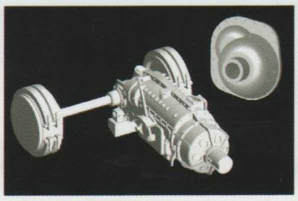


- Both front and rear gun traveling clamps can be assembled in travel or fighting modes

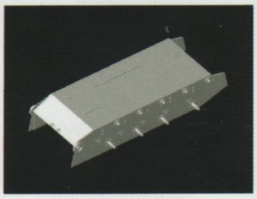


- Driver's controls recreated in fine detail

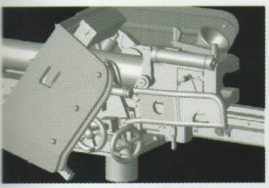
- Instrument panel is included



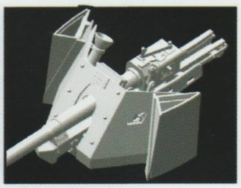
- Authentic ZF SSG46 Aphon transmission system components
- Accurate transmission housing



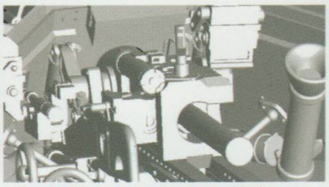
- Accurate details on hull bottom



- New recoil guard for Pak40 mounted on Marder II



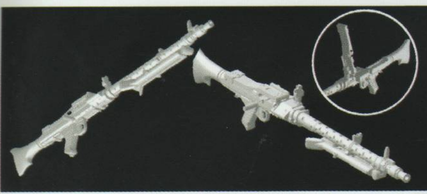
- Slide-molded "armor spacers"



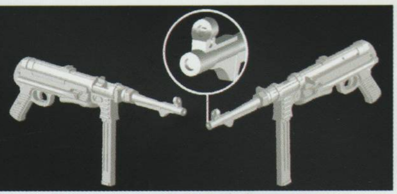
- Detailed breech can be assembled open or closed

- Double-layer ultra thin gun shield w/rivets

- Three kinds of slide-molded muzzle brakes



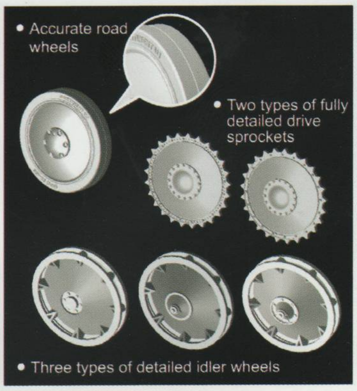
- MG34 w/detailed feed tray and separate feed cover



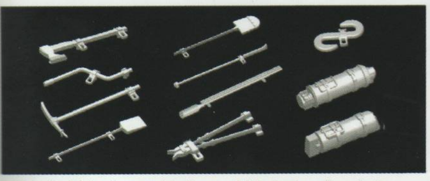
- Slide-molded weapons w/hollowed rifle muzzle

Magic Track

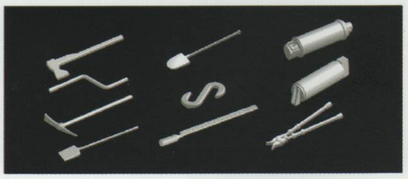
- Newly tooled Magic tracks are the smallest ever
- Both left and right tracks accurately modeled



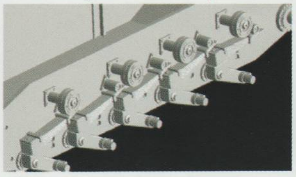
- Accurate road wheels
- Two types of fully detailed drive sprockets
- Three types of detailed idler wheels



- Detailed injection molded on-vehicle tools w/brackets

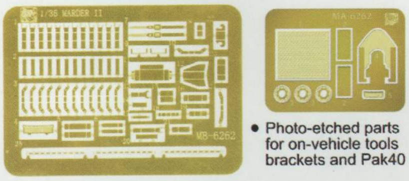


- Additional on-vehicle tools without brackets

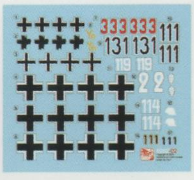


- Detailed suspension system

- Two types of plastic ammunition, shell casing, ammo tubes (open or close) and wooden ammo cases w/lettering decal



- Photo-etched parts for on-vehicle tools brackets and Pak40



- Cartograf decal offers various markings

- Aluminium gun barrel

DRAGON

6262

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by; The Hobby Company, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG

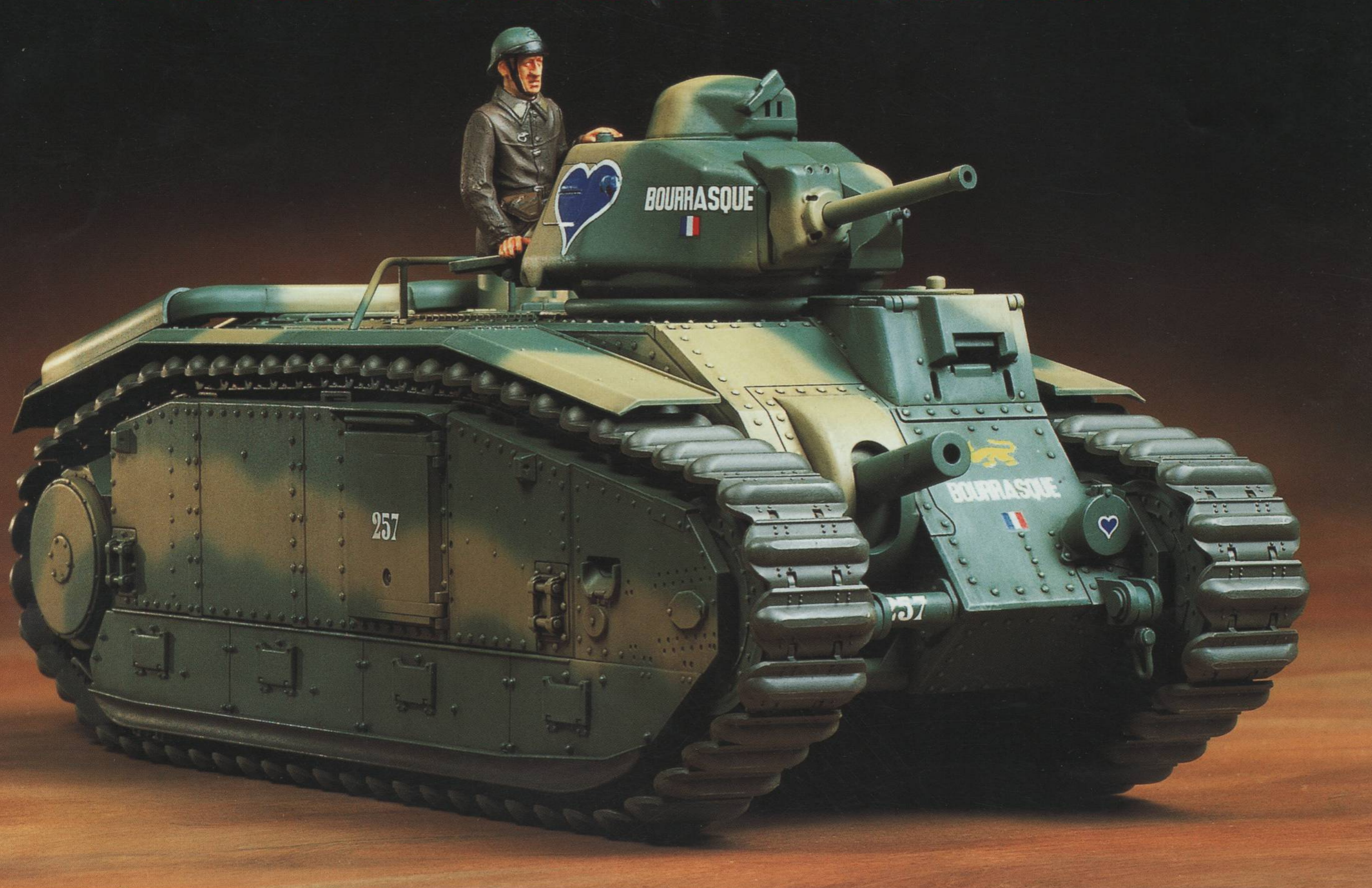
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

www.dragon-models.com

email:info@dragon-models.com

THE FIRST AND THE BEST

1/35 FRENCH BATTLE TANK B1 bis (Item 35282)



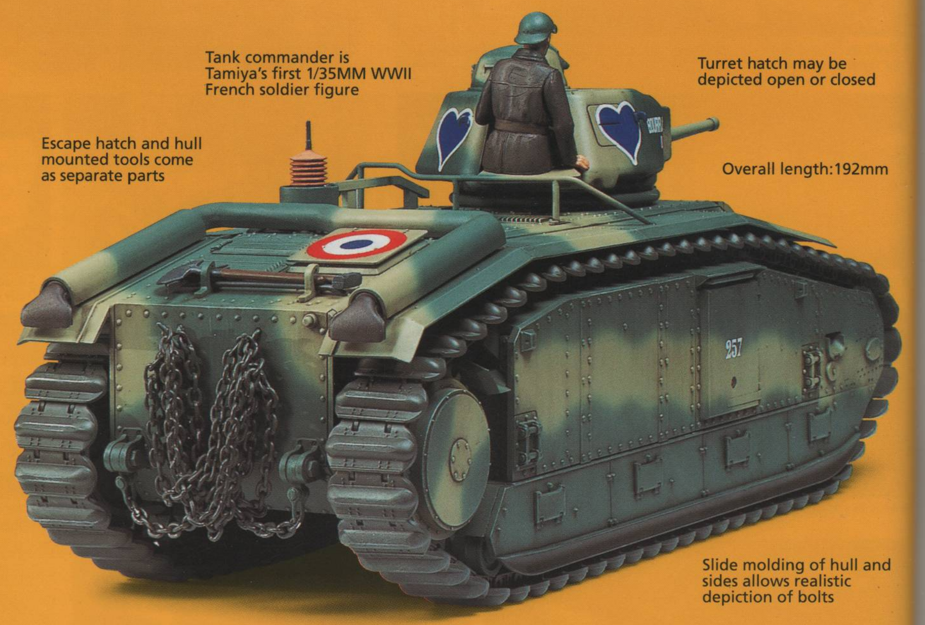
BOURRASQUE
257
BOURRASQUE
257

Defender of the Republic

In order to deal with the increasingly tense situation leading up to the outbreak of WWII, a decision was made to modify and improve the existing B1 tank, giving rise to the B1 bis. Distinctive features included the large 75mm gun and strengthened front armor. The engine was also upgraded to bring the tank up to contemporary standards. The French government tasked individual suppliers with producing key parts, which caused problems and greatly reduced the number of tanks that were built. Although these and other strategic failures inhibited the B1 bis tank's ability on the battlefield, it was greatly feared by German soldiers who encountered it. Featuring strong firepower and defense, the B1 bis could more than hold its own against individual German tanks.

Accept No Substitutes

Never before modeled as a 1/35 plastic injection kit by any maker, the unique and distinctively shaped French B1 bis tank is now available from Tamiya's 1/35 MM Series. Featuring small, one-man turret and large tracks going around the entire hull, the B1 bis tank's design evokes that of an earlier era, promising a fascinating and enjoyable modeling experience. The slide molding process has allowed an incredibly faithful reproduction of hull and side armor. Another Tamiya first in this kit is the new snap-together track design, which requires no cement for assembly. Choice of two types of fenders and exhausts, combined with 4 sets of markings allows construction of each possible combination. Commander's and driver's periscopes are moveable, as is the 75mm main gun.



Tank commander is Tamiya's first 1/35MM WWII French soldier figure
Turret hatch may be depicted open or closed
Escape hatch and hull mounted tools come as separate parts
Overall length:192mm
257
Slide molding of hull and sides allows realistic depiction of bolts
Choice of two types of fenders and mufflers
Snap together assembly type parts accurately depict tracks

Comes with colorful painting guide and four types of marking decals

Tracks require no cement to assemble and snap together easily by hand

Includes realistic metal tow-chain

■About the B1 bis
- Crew of 4 : commander, radio operator, driver, co-driver
- Fully traversing one-man turret with a 47mm gun
- 75mm howitzer with limited traverse
- Maximum armor thickness of 60mm
- Weight 32 tons
- Powered by a Renault 6-cylinder 307hp water-cooled engine
- Top speed on level ground of 28km/h

TAMIYA

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